JUST AS I THOUGHT MY PAINTING WAS GOING WELL, YOU HAD THE GALL TO INTERRUPT ME, DARYUN!
OHH, THEN I DID A GOOD THING!
I STOPPED THAT TRASH FROM GETTING OUT INTO THE WORLD.
I SHOULD BE PRAISED FOR THAT.
FOR WHAT!?
NARSUS, THIS IS...
I'M KING ANDRAGO-RAS' SON, ARSLAN.
I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU FROM DARYUN.
The person they're supposed to rely on is Pars' foremost clever man.
SO YOU'RE NARSUS, LORD OF DAYLAM.

This story is fiction. It has no connection to real people, groups or events.

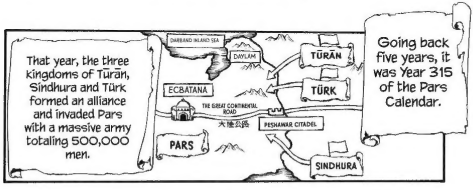
Manga
HIROMU ARAKAWA

Original Script
YOSHIKI TANAKA

(Published by Kobunsha Kappa Novels)

THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN

CHAPTER 5: A Monarch's Generosity

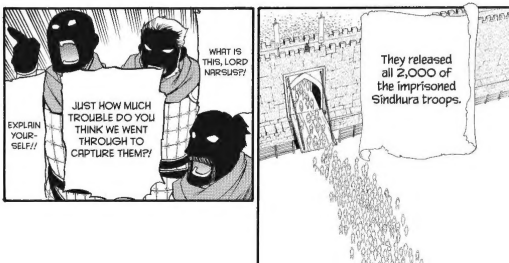

That year, the three kingdoms of Turān, Sindhura and Türk formed an alliance and invaded Pars with a massive army totaling 500,000 men.
CASPIAN SEA
DAYLAM
TURĀN
ECBATANA
TÜRK
THE GREAT CONTINENTAL ROAD
大陸公路
PESHAWAR CITADEL
PARS
SINDHURA
Going back five years, it was Year 315 of the Pars Calendar.

He sent out orders to lords in every corner of the kingdom and made them assemble in the Royal Capital Ecbatana.
King Andragoras, proud of his bravery, could not remain calm, and mobilized all members of his Royal Army.

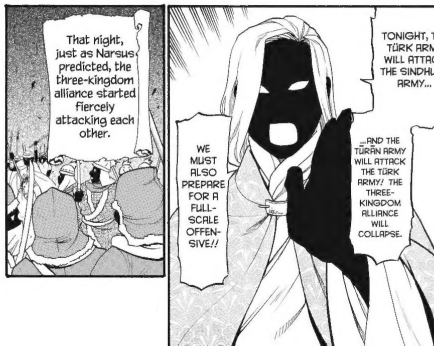
The one who spoke these words was the Lord of the Daylam region, Narsus.
IF YOUR MAJESTY WISHES, I SHALL SHOW THAT I CAN DRIVE OUT THE THREE-KINGDOM ALLIANCE USING ONE OF MY PLANS?
THE LOSSES ON THIS SIDE SEEM LIKE THEY WILL ALSO BE QUITE LARGE...
SOO,OOO, THEN...
うぅむ
HMM
AS LONG AS I HAVE A BIT OF TIME, IT WILL BE ENOUGH.
ざわっ
MURMUR
I DON'T NEED A SINGLE SOLDIER.
WHAT AN EXAGGERATED THING TO SAY!
AFTER ALL THAT, YOU'LL JUST ASK ME TO HAND OVER 100,000 SOLDIERS, WON'T YOU?
ALTHOUGH NATURALLY, I WILL EVENTUALLY NEED YOUR MILITARY POWER, YOUR MAJESTY.
……

I JUST THOUGHT I'D LIKE TO GET A LOOK AT YOUR FACE WHEN YOU FAILED.
WELL, IT IS NOT AS THOUGH I BELIEVE YOU.
On that day, Narsus disappeared, along with his men.
HM. LET ME TRY ENTRUSTING THIS TO YOU.
YOUR MAJESTY?!

However, when he returned three days later, he petitioned the King.
JUST A LITTLE GREENHORN, ALL MOUTH.
HE JUST RAN OFF, DIDN'T HE?


WHAT IS THIS, LORD NARSUS?!
JUST HOW MUCH TROUBLE DO YOU THINK WE WENT THROUGH TO CAPTURE THEM?!
EXPLAIN YOURSELF!!
They released all 2,000 of the imprisoned Sindhura troops.

Nonchalance
HT
GA-CLANG
THIS IS A DUEL!!
....HT...
IS THIS ANY TIME TO FIGHT AMONGST OURSELVES?


That night, just as Narsus predicted, the three-kingdom alliance started fiercely attacking each other.
TONIGHT, THE TÜRK ARMY WILL ATTACK THE SINDHURA ARMY...
...AND THE TURAN ARMY WILL ATTACK THE TÜRK ARMY! THE THREE-KINGDOM ALLIANCE WILL COLLAPSE.
WE MUST ALSO PREPARE FOR A FULL-SCALE OFFENSIVE!!

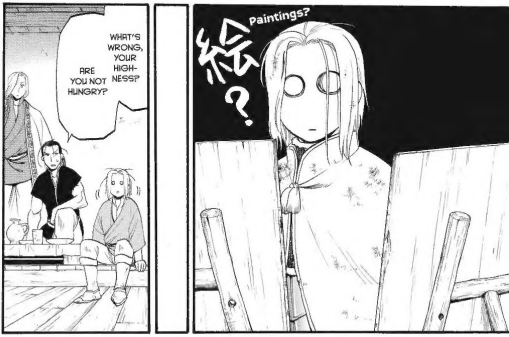
...and the name of the Parsian cavalry became well-known across the whole continent.
Taking advantage of this, the Pars forces routed the 500,000 enemies...

In those three days, Narsus had used himself and his troops to spread rumors.
WHAT, IT WAS JUST A SIMPLE MATTER.
SOMETIMES, ONE RUMOR CAN SURPASS 100,000 SOLDIERS.

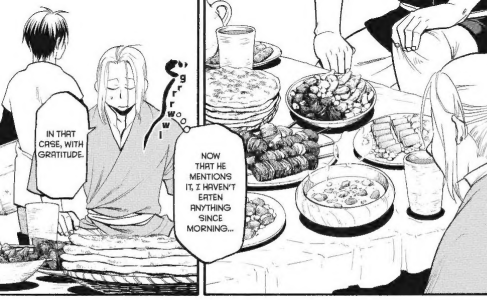
DON'T TRUST THEM.
IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, THE TÜRKS WILL ATTACK THE SINDHURA FORCES, AND AS AN EXCUSE, THEY WILL SURELY SAY THAT SINDHURA IS SECRETLY COMMUNICATING WITH PARS.
THE TÜRK FORCES ARE CONSPIRING WITH THE PARS FORCES.
To the Turan forces...
PARS
TÜRK
SINDHURA
AS PROOF OF THAT, ALL OF THE SINDHURA PRISONERS WILL BE RELEASED.
SINDHURA HAS SECRETLY COMMUNICATED TO PARS THAT THEY WILL BETRAY THE THREE-KINGDOM ALLIANCE.
To the Türk forces...
PARS
SINDHURA

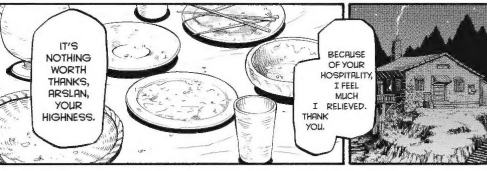
...And thus the three-kingdom alliance's doubts begat more doubts, and they collapsed internally.
THE TÜRKS AND TÜRANIANS HAVE GOTTEN WIND OF THIS, SO BE CAREFUL THAT YOU ARE NOT ATTACKED BY THEM!
ACTUALLY, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT WE, THE PEOPLE OF PARS WILL MAKE PEACE ONLY WITH YOUR SINDHURA.
And also, to the released prisoners from the Sindhura army...
SINDHURA
PARS
TÜRAN
TÜRK
INSTEAD OF STUFFY COURT DUTIES, I'D RATHER LIVE AS I LIKE IN MY HOMELANDS...
THAT'S THE NARSUS I KNOW!
Andragoras gave Narsus 10,000 gold coins and appointed him royal court secretary.
AT ANY RATE, EVEN IF I SAID NO, YOU PLANNED ON FORCING YOUR WAY IN, DIDN'T YOU?
I'M SORRY, WE'RE GREATLY OBLIGED TO YOU.

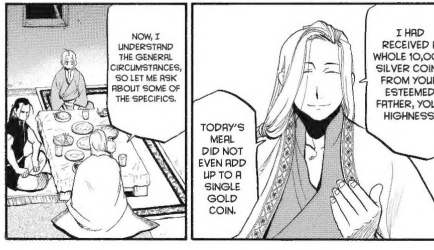
ELAM.
SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU, BUT PLEASE PREPARE A MEAL FOR OUR GUESTS.
MY INTEREST HAS BEEN RUINED, SO I'LL CREATE AGAIN TOMORROW.
YES.
...CREATE?

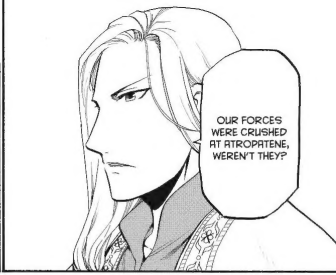

WHAT'S WRONG, YOUR HIGH-NESS? ARE YOU NOT HUNGRY?
Paintings?
絵?

PLEASE PARTAKE WHILE IT IS STILL WARM.
COME NOW.
?
WELL... I SAW SOMETHING INCREDIBLE...

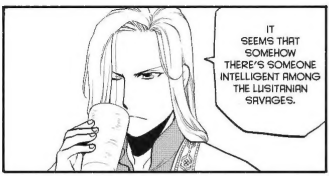

IN THAT CASE, WITH GRATITUDE.
NOW THAT HE MENTIONS IT, I HAVEN'T EATEN ANYTHING SINCE MORNING...
GRRRR


IT'S NOTHING WORTH THANKS, ARSLAN, YOUR HIGHNESS.
BECAUSE OF YOUR HOSPITALITY, I FEEL MUCH RELIEVED. I THANK YOU.


NOW, I UNDERSTAND THE GENERAL CIRCUMSTANCES, SO LET ME ASK ABOUT SOME OF THE SPECIFICS.
TODAY'S MEAL DID NOT EVEN ADD UP TO A SINGLE GOLD COIN.
I HAD RECEIVED A WHOLE 10,000 SILVER COINS FROM YOUR ESTEEMED FATHER, YOUR HIGHNESS.


OUR FORCES WERE CRUSHED AT ATROPATENE, WEREN'T THEY?

...BETRAYED US...
KHARLAN...

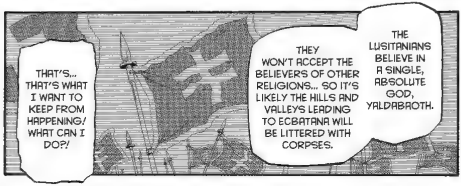

IT SEEMS THAT SOMEHOW THERE'S SOMEONE INTELLIGENT AMONG THE LUSITANIAN SAVAGES.

THIS MEANS NOT ONLY FENCES, DITCHES, FIRE AND MIST,
BUT ALSO TRAITORS WERE USED BY SOMEONE INTELLIGENT AT LUSITANIA.

DARYUN.
I KNOW YOU'VE GONE OUT OF YOUR WAY, BUT I HAVE NO INTENTIONS OF BEING CONNECTED WITH THE COURTLY LIFE ANYMORE.
THAT'S RIGHT.
AND THAT'S WHY WE WANT TO BORROW YOUR WITS FOR HIS HIGHNESS.

.....
STILL, IT HAS TO BE FAR BETTER THAN SCRIBBLING OUT TERRIBLE ART DEEP THE MOUNTAINS/
THE ARTS ARE ETERNAL/
EXISTENCE IS BUT FLEETING/
YOU MUSTN'T TRUST THIS MAN, YOUR HIGHNESS/
AS A WARRIOR AMONG WARRIORS, HE CAN UNDERSTAND PRINCIPLES WELL, BUT HE DOES NOT HAVE THE HEART TO COMPREHEND THE FINER ARTS/
POKE
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "FINER ARTS"? YOURS ARE A...
ehe
.....
clack clack

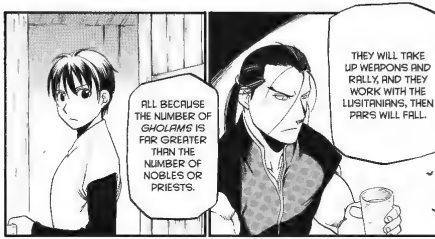
WELL, I WOULDN'T CALL THEM THOUGHTS, BUT...
NARSUS, PLEASE.
I WANT YOU TO TELL ME YOUR THOUGHTS.
IF THAT FLEETING SECOND IS RIGHT NOW, THEN I CAN'T JUST STAND BY AND WATCH.

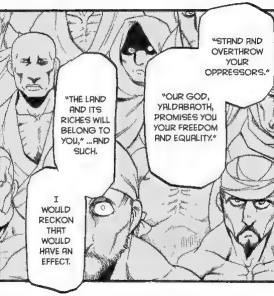

THAT'S... THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO KEEP FROM HAPPENING! WHAT CAN I DO?
THEY WON'T ACCEPT THE BELIEVERS OF OTHER RELIGIONS... SO IT'S LIKELY THE HILLS AND VALLEYS LEADING TO ECBATANA WILL BE LITTERED WITH CORPSES.
THE LUSITANIANS BELIEVE IN A SINGLE, ABSOLUTE GOD, YALDABAOTH.

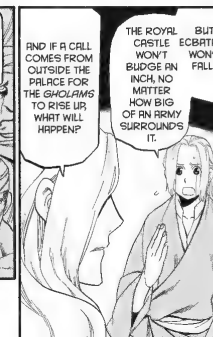
HOW CAN THOSE WHO WERE OPPRESSED BY THE KINGDOM POSSIBLY FIGHT FOR THE KINGDOM?

YOUR HIGH-NESS.
THOUGH IT'S FUTILE TO SAY THIS AT SUCH A LATE POINT..
HIS MAJESTY YOUR ROYAL FATHER SHOULD HAVE ABOLISHED THE SLAVERY SYSTEM.

THE LUSITANIAN ARMY WILL ENCOURAGE PARS' *GHOLAMS* TO CONVERT TO THE YALDABAOTH RELIGION, AND WILL LIKELY GIVE FREEDOM TO THOSE WHO DO CONVERT.
I CAN SEE WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN AFTER THIS POINT.


ALL BECAUSE THE NUMBER OF *GHOLAMS* IS FAR GREATER THAN THE NUMBER OF NOBLES OR PRIESTS.
THEY WILL TAKE UP WEAPONS AND RALLY, AND THEY WORK WITH THE LUSITANIANS, THEN PARS WILL FALL.

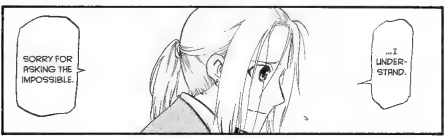

"THE LAND AND ITS RICHES WILL BELONG TO YOU." ...AND SUCH.
"STAND AND OVERTHROW YOUR OPPRESSORS."
"OUR GOD, YALDABAOTH, PROMISES YOU YOUR FREEDOM AND EQUALITY."
I WOULD RECKON THAT WOULD HAVE AN EFFECT.


AND IF A CALL COMES FROM OUTSIDE THE PALACE FOR THE *GHOLAMS* TO RISE UP, WHAT WILL HAPPEN?
THE ROYAL CASTLE WON'T BUDGE AN INCH, NO MATTER HOW BIG OF AN ARMY SURROUNDS IT.
BUT ECBATANA WON'T FALL!

BUT IT LIKELY WOULDN'T CONTINUE LONG.
THAT'S TRUE.
THAT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE A BIT OF AN EFFECT.
.....
EVEN IF THAT'S THE CASE, THE GHOLAMS WILL LIKELY CHOSE TO RID THEMSELVES OF THEIR CURRENT DISCONTENT, INSTEAD OF FEARING THE FUTURE.
THOSE WHO WOULD DISCRIMINATE IN THE NAME OF THEIR GOD PROBABLY HAVE NO TRUE INTENTIONS TO RELEASE THE GHOLAMS.
IF I BECAME A MEMBER OF YOUR HIGHNESS' STAFF, THEN HIS DISPLEASURE WITH ME WOULD DEEPEN, WHICH WOULDN'T BE GOOD FOR YOUR HIGHNESS, EITHER.
ON TOP OF THAT, YOUR ROYAL FATHER HATES ME.
PLEASE, DON'T THINK POORLY OF ME.
I INTEND TO DEVOTE THE REST OF MY LIFE TO ARTISTIC CREATION, HOLED UP IN THESE MOUNTAINS.
ISN'T THERE SOME WAY THAT YOU CAN LEND ME YOUR WITS, NARSUS?
I WANT TO GET BACK TO ECBATANA BEFORE THAT!

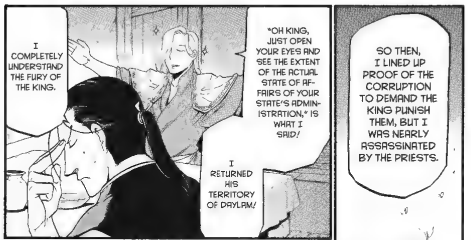
THAT SORT OF THING WON'T BE A PROBLEM.
MY FATHER HATES ME, AND DARYUN AS WELL.
IN THAT CASE, LET'S ALL BE DESPISED TOGETHER.
AFTER ALL, BOTH WARS AND POLITICS WILL TURN TO ASHES AND DISAPPEAR...
THE ONLY THING THAT WILL REMAIN FOR LATER GENERATIONS IS GREAT ART.

I KNOW THIS IS TRULY IMPOLITE OF ME, BUT I CAN'T AT ALL PROMISE WHAT WILL HAPPEN ONCE YOU LEAVE THIS MOUNTAIN.
THOUGH I WILL TAKE AS GOOD OF CARE OF YOU AS I POSSIBLY CAN WHILE YOU ARE HERE.


...I UNDER-STAND.
SORRY FOR ASKING THE IMPOSSIBLE.

HOW WAS IT, WERE THERE ANY GOOD LADIES IN SERICA?
NARSUS!
BUT NARSUS, FOR YOU TO HAVE BEEN BANISHED FROM THE ROYAL PALACE WHILE I WAS ESCORTING THE MISSION TO SERICA, KINGDOM OF SILK...

I THOUGHT IT WAS BAD FOR THE KINGDOM, SO I SUBMITTED ALL SORTS OF REFORM BILLS TO THE KING, BUT HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT THEM.
...I COULDN'T STAND ALL THE CORRUPTION OF THOSE NOBLES, THE CIVIL SERVANTS AND PRIESTS AND WHAT HAVE YOU.

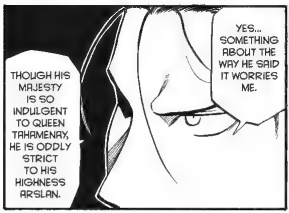

I COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND THE FURY OF THE KING.
"OH KING, JUST OPEN YOUR EYES AND SEE THE EXTENT OF THE ACTUAL STATE OF AFFAIRS OF YOUR STATE'S ADMINISTRATION," IS WHAT I SAID!
I RETURNED HIS TERRITORY OF DAYLAM.
SO THEN, I LINED UP PROOF OF THE CORRUPTION TO DEMAND THE KING PUNISH THEM, BUT I WAS NEARLY ASSASSINATED BY THE PRIESTS.
AS IT WAS SO TIRESOME, I WROTE IT ALL IN A LETTER OF RESIGNATION AND LEFT THE COURT ON MY OWN.

HMM
THIS IS THE RESULT OF BEING TOO CONFIDENT IN YOUR OWN STRENGTH AND LOOKING DOWN ON MILITARY STRATEGY.
ATROPPATENE, AS WELL.
KING ANDRAGORAS MAY BE STRONG IN BATTLE BUT TOOK POLITICS TOO LIGHTLY.

IT SEEMS LIKE HIS SADNESS SURPASSED HIS ANGER ABOUT KHARLAN'S BACK-STABBING.
... HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE SOLDIERS WE LEFT IN ATROPATENE, AND IT MADE HIM DEPRESSED.

SO YOU DON'T WANT HIS HIGHNESS TO MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES AS THE KING.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, DARYUN? FROM YOUR POINT OF VIEW, WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS HIS HIGHNESS, ARSLAN.

THAT'S WHAT WORRIES ME.
HE'S A DELI-CATELY SENSI-TIVE AND GENTLE PERSON.


THOUGH HIS MAJESTY IS SO INDULGENT TO QUEEN TAHMENAY, HE IS ODDLY STRICT TO HIS HIGHNESS ARSLAN.
YES... SOMETHING ABOUT THE WAY HE SAID IT WORRIES ME.

MAYBE BECAUSE HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT HIS HIGHNESS FOR THOSE REASONS, BUT UNCLE VAHRIZ MADE ME "SWEAR MY LOYALTY TO HIS HIGHNESS PERSONALLY"...
LORD VAHRIZ DID?

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT, THE QUEEN ALSO SOMEHOW SEEMS TO PUT A DISTANCE BETWEEN HERSELF AND HIS HIGHNESS.
.....

PEEEEP
Chee Chee Chee
Chee Chee Chee
...IS THERE SOMETHING THAT I CAN HELP W...
NO.
ELAM...
GOOD MORNING, YOUR HIGHNESS.

I CAN'T DO ANYTH...
I HAVE ATTENDED SIR NARSUS FOR A LONG TIME.
YOU'RE REALLY USED TO IT...
.....
WAS IT... YOUR PARENTS WERE RELEASED FROM BEING GHOLAMS, ELAM?
.....
YES, IT HAPPENED AT THE TIME THE LORD OF PARYAM, SIR TEOS, PASSED AWAY, AND HIS SON, SIR NARSUS, SUCCEEDED HIM.
HE RELEASED ALL THE GHOLAMS AND MADE US INTO AZAT (FREED MEN).
IT SEEMS THAT KING ANDRAGORAS WAS SHOCKED AT HIM FOR THAT.
THANKS TO THAT, WHEN THAT THREE-KINGDOM ALLIANCE INVADED, HE DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH SOLDIERS ON HAND...

...I WONDER IF THE GHOLAMS REALLY SHOULD BE FREED, AFTER ALL.
PLEASE CONSIDER THE MATTER ON YOUR OWN.
SKSKR..
SKSKR

NEIGH
!

FOR THEM TO COME LOOKING FOR YOU HERE MEANS THEY'VE GOT GOOD FORESIGHT.
I REMEMBER SEEING THEM. THEY'RE KHARLAN'S MEN.
HMM.
KHARLAN'S TRAINED HIS MEN WELL...

I FORGOT TO ASK YOU UP UNTIL NOW, DARYUN... ...BUT WHICH ROAD DID YOU USE TO COME UP HERE?

YOU... THAT MEANS YOU PASSED NEAR KHARLAN'S CASTLE, DIDN'T YOU?!

YOU VILLAINOUS BASTARD!! YOU INTENDED FROM THE VERY BEGINNING TO GET ME INVOLVED, AND INTENTIONELLY PASSED ON A ROAD WHERE YOU'D BE NOTICED BY THEM...

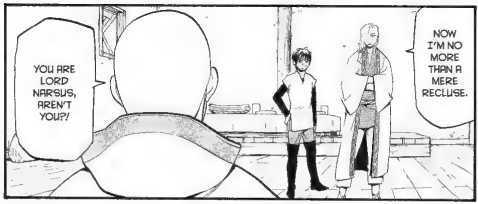
ALL BECAUSE I RESPECT YOUR RESOURCEFULNESS SO MUCH.

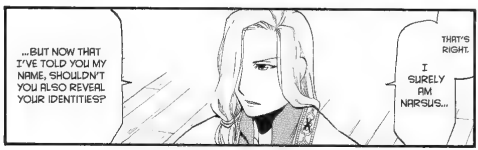
SO IF IT'S COME TO THIS, THE BEST THING IS TO GIVE IN AND SERVE HIS HIGHNESS, RIGHT?

GRR

he he he

THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
YOU ARE LORD NARSUS, THE LORD OF DAYLAM UNTIL RECENT YEARS...
...I AM NOT MISTAKEN, AM I?

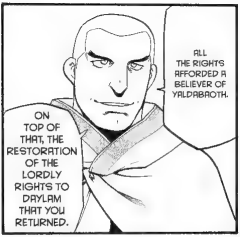

YOU ARE LORD NARSUS, AREN'T YOU?
NOW I'M NO MORE THAN A MERE RECLUSE.


...BUT NOW THAT I'VE TOLD YOU MY NAME, SHOULDN'T YOU ALSO REVEAL YOUR IDENTITIES?
THAT'S RIGHT.
I SURELY AM NARSUS...

WE ARE MEN UNDER THE COMMAND OF SIR ERĀN KHARLAN OF PARS.
...HOW RUDE OF ME.
WHAT IS HE SAYING?
SINCE FATHER ASCENDED TO THE THRONE THE ONLY ERĀN HAS BEEN VAHRIZ.
!!
ERĀN KHARLAN IS A VERY NICE, RHYMING NICKNAME, ISN'T IT.
HOWEVER, WHEN I LEFT THE ROYAL COURT, THIS KINGDOM'S ERĀN WAS OLD VAHRIZ...
DID THE OLD MAN RETIRE?

HOWEVER, IT WAS NO ILLNESS.
OLD MAN VAHRIZ DIED.
RIGHT ABOUT NOW HIS WRINKLED OLD HEAD IS PROBABLY BEING DISPLAYED BEFORE THE CASTLED GATES OF ECBATANA, HIS GAPING MOUTH RECOMMENDING SURRENDER TO THOSE INSIDE.
CREEEEK
?!
WHAT WAS THAT SOUND?
FIELD MICE.

WE HAVE TESTIMONY THAT THE GENERALS OF THE VANQUISHED FORCES, ARSLAN AND DARYUN, WERE SEEN RUNNING INTO THESE MOUNTAINS.
LORD NARSUS, DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
WHY, NOT AT ALL.
BY THE WAY, WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE FOR CALLING SO EARLY IN THE MORNING?
YOU SAID THEY WERE GENERALS OF A VANQUISHED army, BUT TO START OFF WITH, THERE'S NO WAY DARYUN COULD HAVE LOST.
THAT IS, SO LONG AS HE DIDN'T MEET SOME KIND OF PARTICULARLY UNDERHANDED BETRAYAL.
I WONDER ABOUT THAT.
HE MIGHT HAVE FAILED TO READ THE WAY THE WAR WAS GOING WHILE PROTECTING THAT BURDENSOME PRINCE.
OUR LORD ERAN KHARLAN BELIEVES THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO ADD YOU TO HIS MEN, LORD NARSUS.
HE HOLDS YOU IN HIGH REGARD, FOR YOUR RESOURCEFULNESS AS WELL AS YOUR FIRST-RATE SKILL AS A SWORDSMAN...
ACTUALLY, WE HAVE ONE MORE POINT OF BUSINESS TODAY.
WHAT IS IT?


ALL THE RIGHTS AFFORDED A BELIEVER OF YALDABAOTH.
ON TOP OF THAT, THE RESTORATION OF THE LORDLY RIGHTS TO DAYLAM THAT YOU RETURNED.

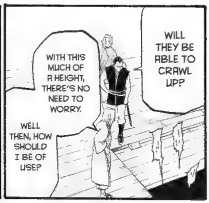
AND IN THE EVENT THAT I WAS TO BECOME ONE OF DUKE KHARLAN'S MEN, THEN WHAT WILL THAT GUARANTEE FOR ME?
HMM...

WELL THEN, I'LL HAVE YOU GO BACK AND TELL THIS TO THAT DOG, KHARLAN!
EAT YOUR CARRION BY YOURSELF!!
TELL HIM IT'S TOO UNSAVORY FOR NARSUS!!

MUST I GIVE ONE RIGHT ON THE SPOT?
HOW ABOUT YOUR ANSWER?
TAP
TAP

BY ALL MEANS/

YOU BAS-TARD...
カ!
CLACK
!!0"
WHOOO
AAAAAAHHHHHHH
WHY NARSUS, YOOOU...
ドドシャーン
IDIOT.


WILL THEY BE ABLE TO CRAWL UP?
WITH THIS MUCH OF A HEIGHT, THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.
WELL THEN, HOW SHOULD I BE OF USE?

SORRY

YOU'RE GIVING OFF TOO MUCH OF A MENACING AURA.
DARYUN.

IF VAHRIZ HADN'T TRAINED ME LIKE THAT, THEN I WOULD HAVE DIED AT ATROPATENE.
HE ALWAYS... GAVE ME MY LESSONS...
BUT I ALWAYS JUST COMPLAINED...
VAHRIZ...
FIRST OFF, LET'S FILL UP WITH A MEAL.
OH! I HAD FOR-GOT-TEN.
SIR NARSUS, THE PREPA-RATIONS FOR BREAKFAST ARE FINISHED.

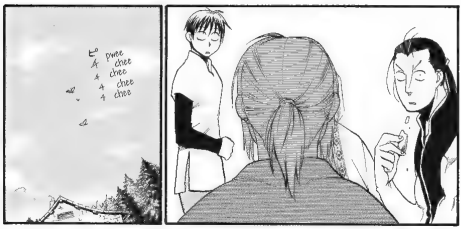
……

FWOOSH
?!
THNKS
BWOHH!
NWAHHH!!
ドゥーン
ドゴボーン
ドシャーン
KA-PLOOSH
GA-BONK
KA-SPLOSH
SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE I'VE PUT YOU THROUGH, BUT COULD I GET YOU TO COME BACK AGAIN LATER?

SIR NARSUS! PLEASE DO NOT WASTE PLATES!
SORRY, SORRY.
munch
munch
munch
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU AREN'T EATING MUCH... SHALL I MAKE SOMETHING ELSE?
NO, ELAIN, IT'S ALREADY PLENTY. THANK YOU.
THERE'S NO NEED TO DO ANYTHING FOR HIM.
BECAUSE OF THIS BASTARD, I HAVE TO SEARCH FOR ANOTHER HIDE-OUT AFTER ALL.
LIKE I SAID, YOU SHOULD JUST STOP BEING A HERMIT AND COME SERVE HIS HIGHNESS.

NARSUS, I'M ASKING YOU TOO.
PLEASE HELP ME, ALONG WITH DARYUN.
SHUT UP, YOU TRAITOR!
I WANT TO LIVE PEACEFULLY!
WELL THEN, HOW ABOUT THIS?
I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOUR WORDS, BUT...
IN RETURN FOR ASKING FOR YOUR LOYALTY, I SHALL GIVE YOU PLENTY OF COMPENSATION.
COM-PENSA-TION...
ARE YOU SAYING YOU'LL GIVE ME GOLD COINS, LIKE YOUR FATHER KING?
NO.
I DON'T THINK I CAN BUY YOUR FEALTY WITH GOLD.
SO THEN, A POSITION? LIKE PRIME MINISTER, OR SUCH?
THAT'S NOT IT.
WHEN I DRIVE OUT LUSITANIA AND HAVE BECOME THE SHAH OF PARS...

LORD NARSUS.
I SHALL WELCOME YOU AS MY COURT PAINTER.


pwee
chee
chee
chee
chee

I LIKE THAT.
IT'S BETTER THAN I THOUGHT.
HOW ABOUT THAT/ DID YOU HEAR THAT, DARYLIN?/
HIS HIGHNESS' GENEROSITY AS A MONARCH/
WHAT A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE BROADNESS OF HIS MIND AND YOURS, AS PITIFUL AND UNCONNECTED TO ART AS YOU ARE.
I'LL HAVE YOU LEAVE ME ALONE.
AT ANY RATE, IF I'M SO PITIFUL, AT THE VERY LEAST I WANT TO HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR ART/
YOUR HIGHNESS/ IF YOU MAKE NARSUS INTO THE COURT PAINTER IT WILL END UP LEAVING A STAIN ON THE HISTORY OF PARSIAN CULTURE/
IT'S NOT SO BAD, DARYLIN.

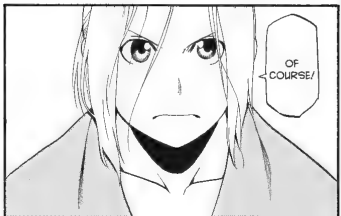
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY TOO, RIGHT?

I'D RATHER HAVE NARSUS PAINT MY FIGURE IN LIFE THAN HAVE MY FACE PRINTED BY A GREAT LUSITANIAN IN DEATH.

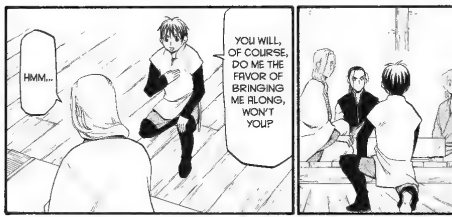
YOUR HIGHNESS.
IT SEEMS THAT DARYUN IS SAYING THAT HE DOESN'T WANT TO DIE BUT HE ALSO DOESN'T WANT HIS PORTRAIT TO BE DRAWN BY ME, DOESN'T IT?
EVEN JUST FOR THAT REASON, I WOULD LIKE TO UNDERTAKE THE TASK...

I SHOULD LEND YOU MY AID, BUT AS MY NAME ALONE WILL INCUR KING ANDRAGORAS' DISPLEASURE...
...IT'S POSSIBLE THAT YOUR HIGHNESS WILL FALL INTO DISGRACE WITH HIM AS WELL. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT WITH THAT?

...BUT ALSO BECAUSE I CAN'T SIT BY AND WATCH WHILE THE LUSITANIAN ARMY TRAMPLES ALL OVER OUR REALM.


OF COURSE!

On one arm, he has the continent's greatest knight! On the other, the continent's greatest tactician! With a mere three people, Arslan begins his counterattack!!

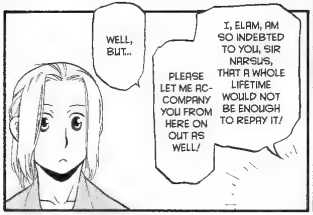


The strongest knight, Daryun! The preeminent tactician, Narsus! Both have rallied under Arslan!!

This story is fiction. It has no connection to real people, groups or events.

I'LL GIVE YOU TRAVEL FARE AND LIVING EXPENSES, SO PLEASE GO...
I'LL DRAW UP A LETTER.
I DO NOT WANT TO!

HE'S THE OWNER OF A MERCHANT SHIP.
IF LUSITANIA WAS TO INVADE, YOU COULD ESCAPE TO THE SEA AND THEN EVEN CROSS OVER TO ANOTHER KINGDOM.


I, ELAM, AM SO INDEBTED TO YOU, SIR NARSUS, THAT A WHOLE LIFETIME WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH TO REPAY IT!
PLEASE LET ME ACCOMPANY YOU FROM HERE ON OUT AS WELL!
WELL, BUT...

NOT ONLY DO I HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO BRINGING HIM WITH US, I THINK HE WILL BE VERY HELPFUL TO HAVE AROUND.
SIR DARYUN, PLEASE SAY MORE OF THAT!
EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT...

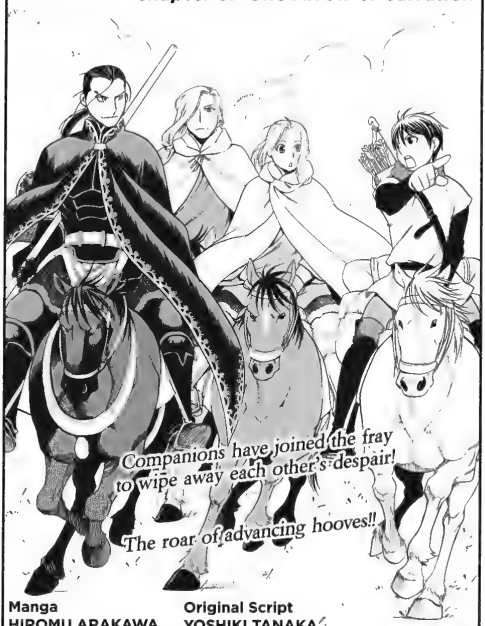
IT'S NOT SO BAD, NARSUS.
NOT ONLY IS ELAM CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS, BUT ON TOP OF THAT HE IS RATHER SKILLED WITH THE BOW AND DAGGER.

!
I'M ASKING YOU TOO, NARSUS.
YOUR HIGH-NESS.
IF YOU DO LEAVE ELAM...
...IS THERE ANOTHER AMONG US WHO CAN MAKE SUCH DELICIOUS MEALS AS THIS?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
PLEASE ACCOMPANY ME FROM NOW ON, ELRM. I'M COUNTING ON YOU!
THEN IT'S SETTLED!
AS I SAID, YOUR HIGHNESS, PLEASE BE QUIET AND SIT DOWN!
IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN HELP YOU WITH?
I MUST PREPARE MY PERSONAL EFFECTS AS WELL.
I'LL GET US PACKED UP RIGHT AWAY!
HE COULDN'T MAKE ANY FRIENDS HIS OWN AGE AT THE ROYAL COURT, AFTER ALL.
I WOULD LIKE FOR ELRM TO BECOME HIS HIGHNESS' GOOD FRIEND.

THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN

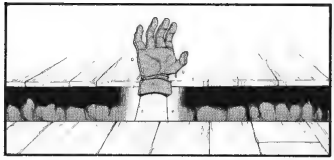
Chapter 5: One Arrow of Salvation

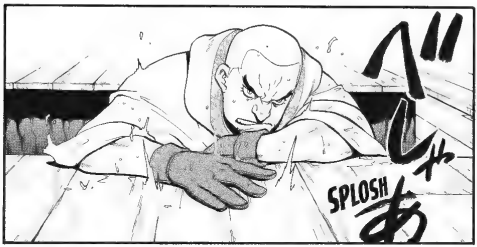


Manga
HIROMU ARAKAWA

Original Script
YOSHIKI TANAKA

(Published by Kobunsha Kappa Novels)

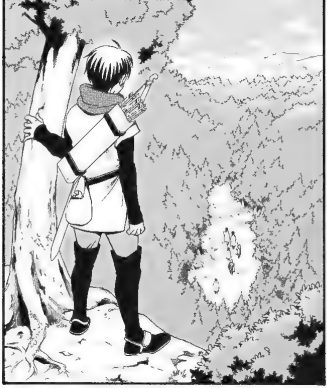



SPLOSH

HEE
HAH
HAH
THE HORSES
HAH

HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH

THE ROAD LEADING OUT OF THE MOUNTAINS IS STRICTLY GUARDED BY SIR KHARLAN'S MEN.
YOU SON OF A BITCH... DON'T THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY!
OUR HORSES ARE GONE...
GRR
TWITCH
I MEAN THEY ARE DARYUN AND NARSUS AFTER ALL.
COULDN'T IT BE THAT HE HAS THE CONFIDENCE THEY CAN FIGHT THEIR WAY OUT OF THE BLOCKADE?
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
WHAT KIND OF TACTICIAN CAN HE BE IF HE DOESN'T EVEN REALIZE THAT! AND A MARZBAN!


JUST YOU WATCH! I'LL BE SPITTING ON THEIR DEAD BODIES WITHIN THE DAY!
ACHOO
へくしゅん

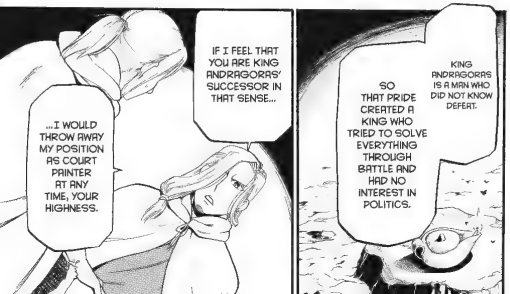
THEY WENT DOWN THE MOUNTAIN ON FOOT.

I JUST HOPE THEY DON'T MEET ANY BEARS OR WOLVES.
WELL THEY ARE TRYING RATHER HARD...
...BUT BY FOOT, THEY LIKELY WON'T REACH THE BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN WITHIN THE DAY.
IF WE GO DOWN THE MOUNTAIN NOW, WE'LL JUST END UP FIGHTING KIMBLAY'S TROOPS UNNECESSARILY.
LET'S WAIT A LITTLE WHILE HOLED UP IN THIS CAVE.
IT'S PRETTY BIG...
ONE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN, AFTER ALL.
I MAKE A POINT OF KEEPING MULTIPLE HIDE-OUTS.

LIKE HOW?
LET'S THINK OF A WAY TO USE THAT TO OUR ADVANTAGE INSTEAD.
WELL, AT ANY RATE, WE CAN'T AVOID THE BLOCKADE.
Nonchalant
AND WE'VE ENDED UP HAVING TO USE THIS PLACE ALL BECAUSE DARYUN DID SOMETHING UNCALLED FOR.
nod
nod
THAT'S THE VERY FIRST STEP OF WHAT WE CALL MILITARY STRATEGY.
WE GET THE ENEMY FORCES TO CONCENTRATE WHERE WE WANT THEM TO.
THAT'S JUST PERSONAL COURAGE.
LIKE WHEN DARYUN BROKE INTO THE CENTER OF A HUGE GROUP OF SOLDIERS FOR ME?
THE VALUE OF STRATEGY IS THAT HOWEVER MUCH VALOR YOUR TROOPS MAY HAVE, YOU CAN EASILY GAIN A VICTORY WITHOUT HAVING TO EXPEND IT ALL.

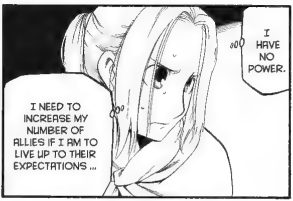
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY THIS IS VALUABLE, BECAUSE THOSE WHO WOULD COMMAND AN ARMY MUST WIN USING THEIR VERY WEAKEST SOLDIERS AS A STANDARD.
IN A THOUSAND MEN, THERE WON'T BE EVEN A SINGLE PERSON AS COURAGEOUS AS DARYUN.

ONCE THE SITUATION GETS OUT OF CONTROL, WHAT YOU EXPERIENCED AT ATROPATENE IS LIKELY WHAT WILL HAPPEN.
THOUGH IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY, WHEN ONE IS SINGULARLY FOCUSED ON JUST THE STRENGTH OF THEIR SOLDIERS, DISDAIN THEIR ENEMIES, AND MAKE LIGHT OF STRATEGY...
AND WHEN ONE BECOMES THE RULER OF A KINGDOM, THEY NEED TO DEVISE A PLAN SO THAT EVEN THE MOST INCOMPETENT COMMANDER COULD NOT LOSE TO ENEMY FORCES.
flow
flow
flow
NOTHING. PLEASE CONTINUE.
...WHAT IS IT?


IF I FEEL THAT YOU ARE KING ANDRAGORAS' SUCCESSOR IN THAT SENSE...
...I WOULD THROW AWAY MY POSITION AS COURT PAINTER AT ANY TIME, YOUR HIGHNESS.
KING ANDRAGORAS IS A MAN WHO DID NOT KNOW DEFEAT.
SO THAT PRIDE CREATED A KING WHO TRIED TO SOLVE EVERYTHING THROUGH BATTLE AND HAD NO INTEREST IN POLITICS.

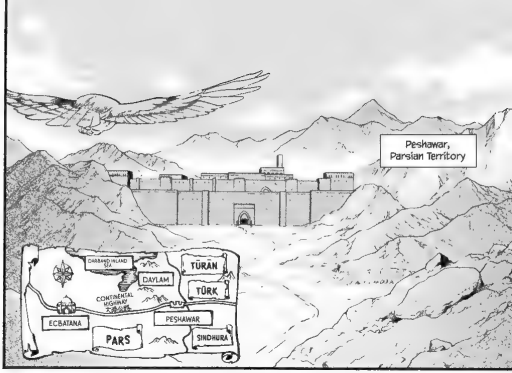
HM.
I WILL KEEP THAT IN MIND.

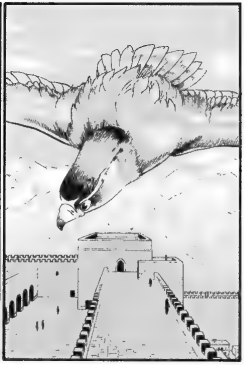
I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT HE KNOWS SOMETHING INCREDIBLE.
DARYUN, EVEN IF WE DO RUN INTO KHARLAN, DON'T KILL HIM.
I UNDERSTAND.


I HAVE NO POWER.
I NEED TO INCREASE MY NUMBER OF ALLIES IF I AM TO LIVE UP TO THEIR EXPECTATIONS ...

THAT'S RIGHT. SOMETHING INCREDIBLE.
SOMETHING INCREDIBLE?

I HAVE MY REASONS.
...BUT AS FOR WHAT THAT IS...
...YOU POOR, SAD PRINCE.
YOU MAY HAVE DONE NOTHING WRONG, BUT I WILL HAVE YOU DIE HERE.
...AT THIS POINT, I HAVE NOT THE SLIGHTEST IDEA.
SOMETHING... INCREDIBLE...

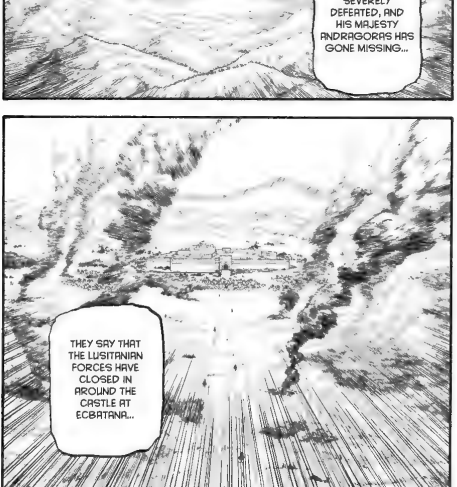

Peshawar,
Parsian Territory
CASPIAN SEA
DAILAM
TURAN
TÜRK
CONTINENTAL HIGHWAY
ECBATANA
PARS
PESHAWAR
SINDHURA

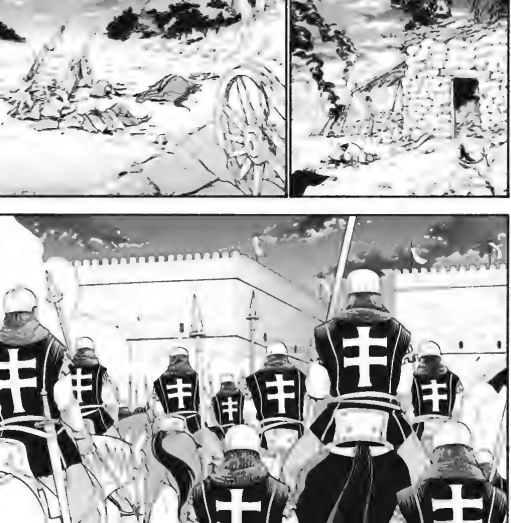


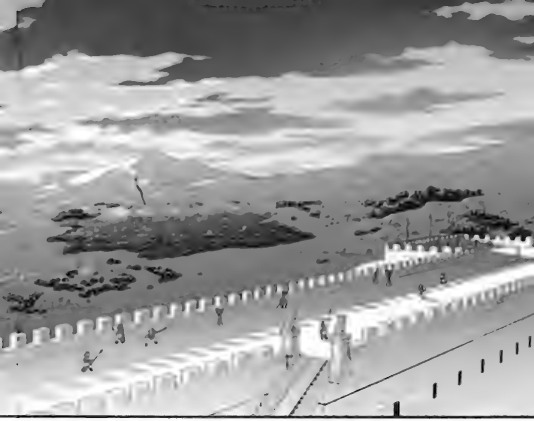
IT'S AZRAEL!
FLAPP
FLAPP
FLAP
WHAT'S WRONG?
WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE ACCOMPANYING HIS HIGHNESS ARSLAN...?
SURELY SOMETHING HASN'T HAPPENED TO HIS HIGHNESS...?
RUSH
RUSH
RUSH
RUSH
LORD MARZBAN BAHMAN IS LOOKING FOR YOU!
AH, SO THIS IS WHERE YOU ARE, LORD MARZBAN KISHWARD!
TAP
TAP
TAP
LORD BAHMAN!
KISHWARD!
WHAT HAPPENED?

!
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?!
JUST NOW THERE WAS A COURIER FROM AT-ROPATENE...

OUR PARSIAN ARMY WAS SEVERELY DEFEATED, AND HIS MAJESTY ANDRAGORAS HAS GONE MISSING...


THEY SAY THAT THE LUSITANIAN FORCES HAVE CLOSED IN AROUND THE CASTLE AT ECBATANA...

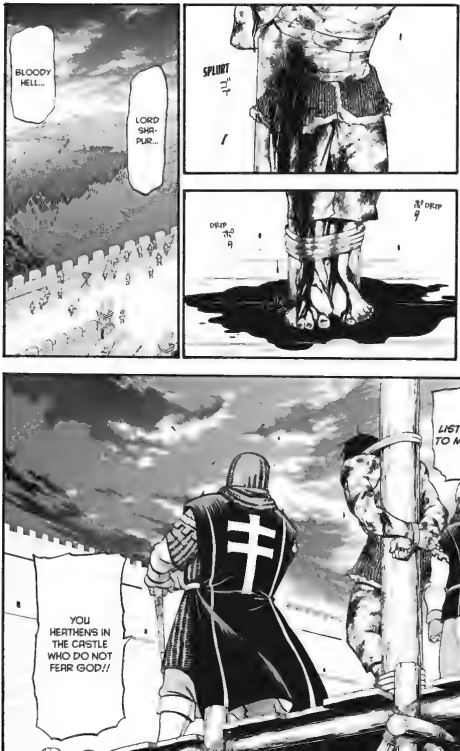




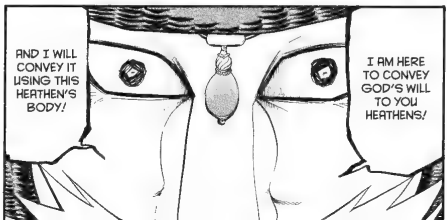
WHY?
THE PAR'S ARMY LOST?!
WHAT HAPPENED AT ATROPA-

CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
WHERE IS THE KING...?
BUT I HAVEN'T HEARD ANY TALK ABOUT THE KING RETURNING.
THERE'S NO WAY THAT KING ANDRAGORAS COULD HAVE LOST!
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
HEY, THAT'S.../
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLONK

!!
CLONK
LORD MARZBĀN SHAPUR!!


BLOODY HELL...
LORD SHA-PUR...
SPLORT
DRIP
DRIP
YOU HEATHENS IN THE CASTLE WHO DO NOT FEAR GOD!!
LISTEN TO ME!!

I AM A CLERGYMAN IN SERVICE OF THE SINGLE, ABSOLUTE GOD YALDABAOTH.
I AM BODIN, AN ARCHBISHOP AS WELL AS AN INQUISITOR!/


I AM HERE TO CONVEY GOD'S WILL TO YOU HEATHENS!/
AND I WILL CONVEY IT USING THIS HEATHEN'S BODY!

FIRST OF ALL, I WILL CUT OFF THE LITTLE TOE OF HIS LEFT LEG!
THEN THE FOURTH TOE...
THE MIDDLE TOE...
ONCE THE LEFT FOOT IS DONE, NEXT WILL BE THE RIGHT FOOT!
THEN AFTER THAT THE HANDS!
YOU BASTE!!
YALDA-BROTH IS THE VERY ONE WHO IS TRULY AN EVIL GOD!!
YOU'RE A BEAST WHO DOES NOT PAY PROPER RESPECT TO A WARRIOR!!
I WILL TEACH YOU HEATHENS IN THE CASTLE THE FATE OF THOSE WHO GO AGAINST GOD!
YOU SWINE!!
UNCULTURED SAVAGES!!
GRIN
GRIN

ACCURSED CREATURE !!
HE IS A HERTHEN!
A DISCIPLE OF THE DEVIL, WHO DOES NOT WORSHIP THE ONE ABSOLUTE GOD YALDABROTH!!
SHOWING MERCY TO THESE HERTHENS GOES AGAINST GOD...
THERE IS NO REASON FOR ME TO BE CRITICIZED FOR MY BELIEFS BY A BASTARD LIKE YOU!

I'D RATHER GO TO HELL, OR ANYWHERE ELSE AT ALL, THAN BE SAVED BY A GOD LIKE YOURS.
GO AHEAD AND KILL ME QUICKLY.
AND THEN FROM THERE I'LL WATCH AS YOUR GOD AND KINGDOM ARE RIPPED TO SHREDS BY YOUR OWN BRUTALITY!
CRUNCH!!

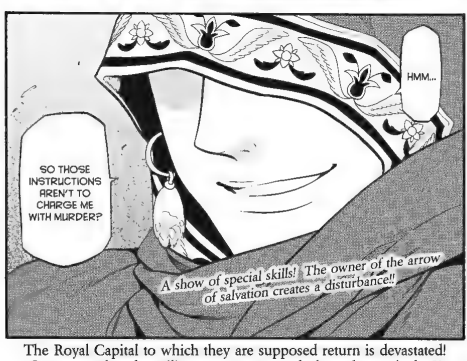
YOU ENEMY OF GOD!!
YOU HEATHEN!!
!
YOU CURSED MAN!!
PEOPLE OF ECBATANA!!

AFTER ALL, I WON'T BE SAVED!!
IF YOU CARE ABOUT ME, SHOOT ME DEAD WITH AN ARROW!!
THWUMP
YOU BAS-TARD...
SHUT UP!!
SIR SHAPUR!!
I'D RATHER DIE TO THE ARROW OF A COMPATRIOT THAN BE TORTURED TO DEATH BY THE SAVAGES OF LUSITANIA!!

THUNK
WHOOSH
?!

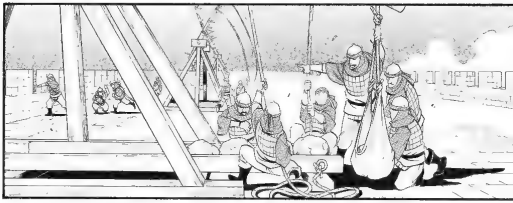
WITH JUST ONE SHOT, FROM THIS DISTANCE...?!
CHATTER
WHO COULD IT HAVE BEEN...?!

W-WAIT! YOU OVER THERE!!
RUSH
RUSH
RUSH
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SHOT THAT ARROW JUST NOW, AREN'T YOU?!
QUEEN TAHMENEH HAS SUMMONED YOU.
SHE HAS INSTRUCTED US THAT WE SHOULD GIVE A PROPER REWARD TO WHOEVER CAN RELEASE THE HERO, SHAPUR, FROM HIS SUFFERING.


HMM...
SO THOSE INSTRUCTIONS AREN'T TO CHARGE ME WITH MURDER?
A show of special skills! The owner of the arrow of salvation creates a disturbance!!

The Royal Capital to which they are supposed return is devastated!
Can you gather the military power to smash them down, Arslan?!

RRRRRRR
おっ
RROOAAA
RROOAAA
おおおお



RUUMMBBL
おおおお
おおおお
BLLLL

あ
あ
あ
RRHHAAAAA
AHHHHH
あ
わ

THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN

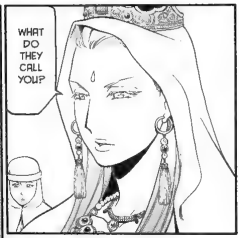
Chapter 7: The Wandering Musician

Is he a friend or an enemy of the Kingdom of Pars?!

The owner of the arrow of salvation is invited in by Queen!

Manga
ARAKAWA HIROMU
(Published by Kobunsha Kappa Novels)

Original Script
TANAKA YOSHIKI



I AM A TRAVELING MUSICIAN.

SKRRR

I PLAY THE OUD LUTE.
I ALSO PLAY THE FLUTE, SING, RECITE POETRY AND DANCE.
AND WHILE I'M AT IT, TO EXPLAIN FURTHER, I CAN HANDLE A BOW, SWORD AND SPEAR BETTER THAN THOSE SOLDIERS OVER THERE.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND...
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, MY LADY QUEEN, I MUST SPEAK!!
I GIVE YOU MY THANKS FOR SAVING LOYAL SHAPUR FROM HIS ANGUISH.
WE WERE ABLE TO VIEW YOUR SKILL WITH THE BOW FROM THE WESTERN TOWER AS WELL.
YOU MUST NOT BELIEVE HIM!!
HE IS A SWINDLER!!
I KNOW THIS PERSON!
HE IS A MOST TERRIBLE MAN!
"I AM A PRINCE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF SISTAN," TRAVELING ALONE TO VARIOUS COUNTRIES FOR THE PURPOSES OF MY TRAINING..."
P
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

AND SUCH AN OLD COUNTRY'S NAME...
THE PRINCIPALITY OF SYSTAN?
AND NOW YOU TELL THE LADY QUEEN THAT YOU ARE A MUSICIAN?
YOU LIED ABOUT BEING A PRINCE, DID YOU NOT?
I DID.
DID YOU NOT SAY THAT TO ME ONLY A FEW NIGHTS AGO?

THAT WAS MY DREAM, AND FOR ONE NIGHT, YOU SHARED THAT DREAM WITH ME.
THERE'S NO NEED TO SAY IT IN SUCH A DIRECT WAY.

sigh
BUT FORCIBLY TRYING TO JUDGE IT BY THE RULES, THE PROFITS, AND THE LOSSES OF THIS WORLD IS SO UNREFINED...
IF YOU WOULD ONLY ACCEPT IT, THIS DREAM WILL BECOME A MEMORY, ITS SWEETNESS INCREASING EVEN MORE, AND LEND A CHARMING COLOR TO YOUR LIFE...
IT IS SO FOOLISH TO TEAR APART THOSE PRECIOUS BEAUTIFUL DREAMS WITH THE BLADE OF UGLY REALITY...
BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES ARE ALL THAT REMAIN...
THEN, WHEN THE DARKNESS OF NIGHT GIVE UP ITS SEAT TO THE LIGHT OF DAYBREAK, THE DREAM PASSED ON, NEVER TO RETURN. LIKE DEW FORMED ON BLADES OF GRASS.

MORE THAN THAT, WHAT I FIND TRULY MYSTERIOUS IS HOW WEAK THE WOMEN OF THIS WORLD ARE...
...TO THE WORD "PRINCE."

SISTAN IS THE NAME OF AN ANCIENT COUNTRY THAT DOES NOT CURRENTLY EXIST.
THEREFORE, I HAVE NOT INCONVENIENCED ANYONE.

NO MATTER HOW DEDICATED A BOYFRIEND THEY MIGHT HAVE, WOMEN THROW THAT AWAY TO TAKE UP WITH A WANDERING STRANGER THAT CALLS HIMSELF A PRINCE...
IT SEEMS THAT SUCH A FRIVOLOUS DREAM IS BEFITTING OF A TRULY FRIVOLOUS WOMAN.

ADDITIONALLY, WE SHOULD PROBABLY HAVE YOU SHOW US YOUR SKILL RELATED TO YOUR PROFESSION.

I CAN CLEARLY SEE THAT YOU ARE ELOQUENT.
WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN YOUR SKILL WITH THE BOW.

STRUM
WELL...

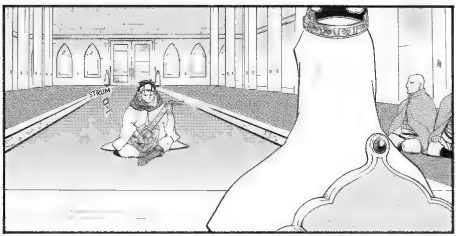
...THE ANTHOLOGY OF THE HEROIC DEEDS OF KAYKHUSRAW.

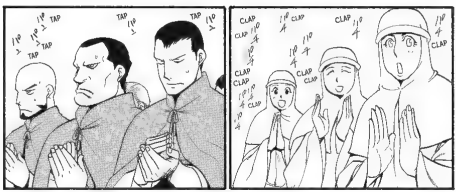
IN THAT CASE, TO THE HEROES WHO AT THIS VERY MOMENT ARE FIGHTING TO PROTECT THE ROYAL CAPITAL, I SHALL DEDICATE...

In the desolate plains of Mäzandarän, when the royal standard of Kaykhusraw fluttered...

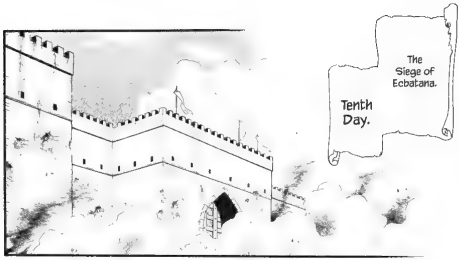
...the wicked Snake King Zahhāk's forces would try to flee.
Much like a flock of sheep, frightened by spring thunder.
His treasured sword Rukhnabad, forged of a shard of the sun, could even slice iron in twain.
His beloved horse Rakhsha had invisible wings.
An excellent horse befitting of Jahangir (High King of the World).
In the sky, there are not two suns.
And on earth, only one Shah.

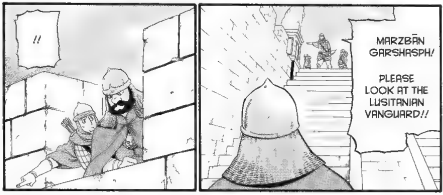
Who will be the one to take up the sword and inherit his destiny...?
A hero unmatched by any other, Kaykhusraw.

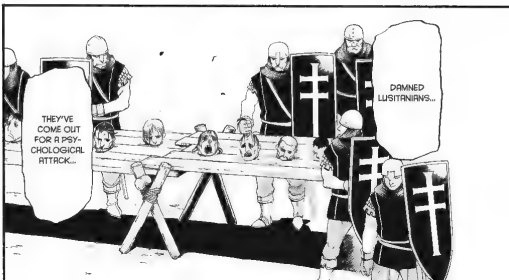

STRUM

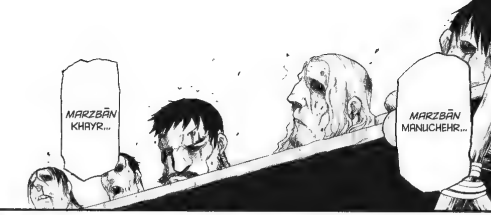

TAP
CLAP

CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP
THAT WAS SPLENDID.
ADDING TOGETHER ONE HUNDRED PIECES FOR YOUR BOW SKILL AND ONE HUNDRED PIECES FOR THE MUSIC...
...I REWARD YOU WITH TWO HUNDRED GOLD COINS.
AFTER ALL, I'VE DEDUCTED A PORTION FOR YOUR CRIME OF DECEIVING MY LADY-IN-WAITING.
...HOW STINGY.
I THOUGHT SHE'D AT LEAST GIVE ME FIVE HUNDRED.
UNDER-STOOD.

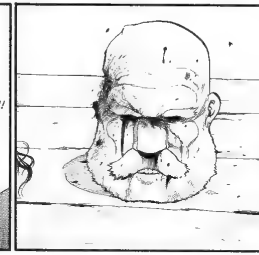

The Siege of Ecbatana.
Tenth Day.


//
MARZBĀN GARSHASPH!
PLEASE LOOK AT THE LUSITANIAN VANGUARD!!


THEY'VE COME OUT FOR A PSYCHOLOGICAL ATTACK...
DAMNED LUSITANIANS...


MARZBĀN KHAYR...
MARZBĀN MANUCHEHR...

LORD... ERĀN VAHRIZ...!!

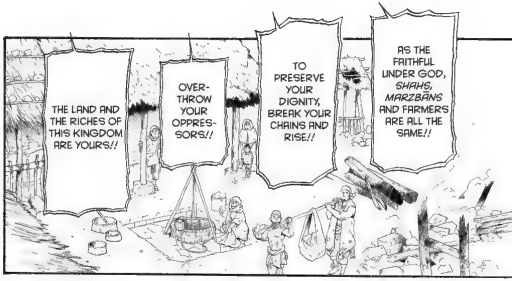


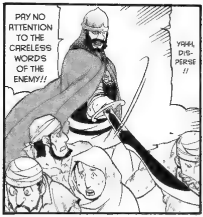
AS FAR AS WE HAVE SEEN, HIS MAJESTY'S HERD HAS NOT BEEN PUT ON DISPLAY.
NO, LADY QUEEN.

SURELY...
SURELY H/S MAJESTY IS NOT ALSO...?

YES, M'LADY!
YOU MAY TAKE YOUR LEAVE.
THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TROUBLE TO REPORT THIS, MARZBAN SAM.
...!
SHE DIDN'T ASK ABOUT HIS HIGHNESS ARSLAN, DID SHE...?
SAM. WE SHOULD OPEN THE CASTLE GATE AND SALLY FORTH.
OTHERWISE, WHAT ARE OUR CAVALRYMEN FOR?
WE CAN NO LONGER ALLOW THOSE DAMNED LUSITANIAN SAVAGES TO DO WHATEVER THEY WANT.
WE HAVE 10,000 MEN, AS WELL AS PLENTY OF PROVISIONS AND WEAPONS.
THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH.

GHOLAMS IN THE CASTLE!!
?
HOWEVER...
SO THEN WHY MUST WE TAKE OUR CHANCES AND RIDE OUT?
IF WE WAIT FOR THE REINFORCEMENTS FROM THE EASTERN BORDER, AND ACT TOGETHER FROM INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CASTLE, ATTACKING THEM FROM BOTH SIDES, THE FIGHT WILL BE DECIDED WITH FEW LOSSES.
OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF THE CASTLE!
IN HUMAN SOCIETY THERE MUST NOT BE ANY GHOLAMS!
UNDER THE GOD YALDABAOTH, ALL PEOPLE ARE EQUAL!
HOW LONG WILL BOW DOWN TO PAR'S, WHEN THEY HAVE BOUND AND EXPLOITED YOU?
RISE UP, GHOLAMS!


THE LAND AND THE RICHES OF THIS KINGDOM ARE YOURS!!
OVER-THROW YOUR OPPRES-SORS!!
TO PRESERVE YOUR DIGNITY, BREAK YOUR CHAINS AND RISE!!
AS THE FAITHFUL UNDER GOD, SHAHS, MARZBĀNS AND FARMERS ARE ALL THE SAME!!


PAY NO ATTENTION TO THE CARELESS WORDS OF THE ENEMY!!
YAH, DIS-PERSE !!

CHATTER
WE WILL FREE ANY GHOLAM WHO COOPERATES WITH LUSITANIA, AND GIVE YOU RIGHTS AS AN AZĀT!!

WHEN WILL THAT BE?/
KISHWARD AND BARMIN ARE SURE TO BE COMING, LEADING THEIR MEN FROM THE EASTERN BORDER/
DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD!!

WE DON'T KNOW WHEN THESE PEOPLE MIGHT TRY SOME-THING!!
WE'VE GOT TO STRIKE WHILE THE IRON IS HOT, SIR!
GARSHASPH, STOP IT! YOU SHOULDN'T USE BRUTE FORCE TO KEEP THEM DOWN!!

MHH...
AFTER THEY GOT WORD OF THE DEFEAT AT ATROPATENE AND REAPIED THEIR TROOPS, EVEN IF THEY KEPT MOVING ALONG THE LONG ROAD NIGHT AND DAY, HOW MANY DAYS WOULD IT TAKE?/
WAHH
わっ
?/
...
YOU'RE DAMNED LOUD, YOU SAVAGE LUSITANIAN BAS-TARDS!!
GHOLAMS, OVERTHROW YOUR OP-PRESSORS/
SKSKPHI HI!!
LORD MARZBĀN GARSHASPH/
THE GHOLAMS AT THE GRAND TEMPLE HAVE SET IT ON FIRE!!
WHAT?/

THEY'RE KILLING THE SERVANTS OF GOD...?
IT SEEMS THAT THE GHOLAMS' DISCONTENT IS MUCH MORE DEEP-SEATED THAN WE IMAGINED...!
THEY'VE BEATEN THE PRIESTS TO DEATH, AND ARE TRYING TO OPEN THE WESTERN GATE TO LET THE LUSITANIAN FORCES IN!!
DAM-MIT...
RWWAHH

THUD THUD THUD
DON'T LET THEM OPEN THE CASTLE GATE!!
NO MATTER WHAT!!
MOVE, YOU SONS OF BITCHES!!
YAH!
YOU ONLY WRETCHES!!
I'LL LOP THE HEAD OFF ANYONE WHO APPROACHES THE GATE!!
GRASH
EEK!

EVEN THOUGH HE'S GOT NOTHING BUT A WOODEN STICK?!
IN HIS MIND, HE HAD A SWORD!!

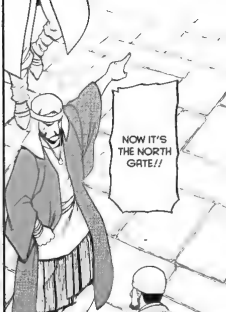
GARSHASPH, HOW CAN YOU BE PROUD FOR KILLING GHOLAMS?!
THEY'RE NOT GHOLAMS!!
THEY'RE TRAITORS!!

LOOK, GARSHASPH.

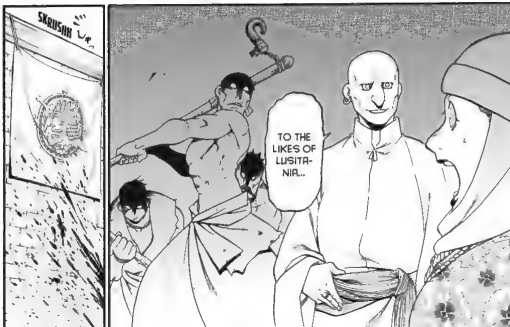
YOU MAY HAVE ONLY KILLED TEN THOUSAND...
...BUT YOU'VE SHOVED UP DYING WITH TO A THOUSAND WITNESS...

WHOOOSH
The whole battle
Haunts you

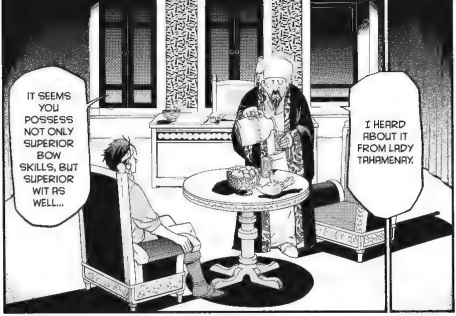
HEY... IS IT REALLY GOING TO BE ALRIGHT?
COULD THE CASTLE ACTUALLY FALL...
IT'S... IMPOS-SIBLE...


NOW IT'S THE NORTH GATE!!
THE GHOLAMS HAVE REVOLTED!!

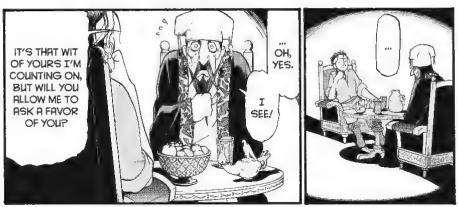
WE WERE FINE A FEW YEARS AGO WHEN UNDER SIEGE BY THE KINGDOM OF MISR'S HUGE ARMY, RIGHT?!
OH, RIGHT...
THAT'S TRUE...


SKRUSHH
TO THE LIKES OF LUSITA-NIA...

I WONDER IF IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO SAY FAREWELL ABOUT NOW.
THIS SITUATION IS STARTING TO LOOK MORE AND MORE QUESTIONABLE, HUH...
THUMP THUMP
CREEEK
SIR GIEVE, ARE YOU HERE?
WE ARE THE MESSENGERS OF LORD HUSRAB, OUR PRIME MINISTER.

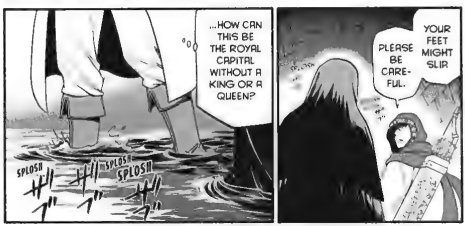

IT SEEMS YOU POSSESS NOT ONLY SUPERIOR BOW SKILLS, BUT SUPERIOR WIT AS WELL...
I HEARD ABOUT IT FROM LADY TAHAMENAY.

PRIME MINISTER, YOUR EXCELLENCY.
I'VE BEEN TOLD ALL SORTS OF THINGS LIKE THAT SINCE I WAS A CHILD.
HOW ABOUT THAT?


IT'S THAT WIT OF YOURS I'M COUNTING ON, BUT WILL YOU ALLOW ME TO ASK A FAVOR OF YOU?
I SEE!
... OH, YES.
...

CREE
I GET THE SENSE OF SWORDS AND ARMOR BEHIND THE CURTAIN...
WHAT A NUISANCE...
CREE
CREE
I SHALL PROVIDE YOU PLENTY OF REWARD...
THIS IS ALL SOLELY FOR THAT PURPOSE.
THE CONTINUING SURVIVAL OF THE KINGDOM OF PARS IS THE REASON.
HOW ABOUT IT?
I WILL NEED A PROPER REASON AND REWARD.
GIVE ME THAT, AND SO LONG AS THERE'S A POSSIBILITY OF SUCCESS, I WILL ACCEPT.
smile
... AS THIS IS AT THE WILL OF LADY TAHMENAY.
FROM THE LADY QUEEN HERSELF?

THAT'S RIGHT.
GIEVE, I WANT YOU TO ACCOMPANY THE LADY QUEEN OUT OF THE CASTLE TO A SAFE PLACE, USING A SECRET PASSAGE.

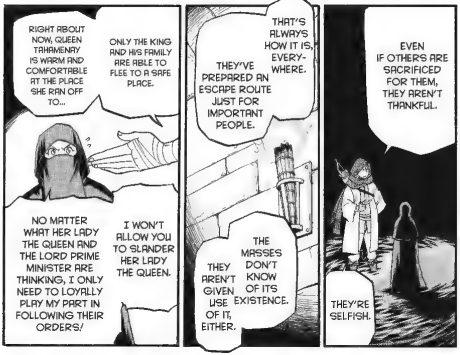

...HOW CAN THIS BE THE ROYAL CAPITAL WITHOUT A KING OR A QUEEN?
SPLOSH
SPLOSH
SPLOSH
YOUR FEET MIGHT SLIP
PLEASE BE CARE-FUL.

SPLOSH
SPLOSH
SPLOSH
SPLOSH
AH WELL...
ON TOP OF THAT, FOR HER TO HAVE ABANDONED HER MILLION SUBJECTS IN ECBATANA...
SPLOSH SPLOSH
AREN'T THERE PROPER KING'S ANYWHERE...?
The traitor, Kharlan! The creator of their strategy, Silver Mask! Their confrontation with Gieve in the underground passageway is imminent!!

SHAKE SHAKE
シャキ シャキ
IT'S BEST NOT TO OVERDO IT.
IT MUST BE HARD ENOUGH FOR YOU JUST PRETENDING TO BE HER LADY THE QUEEN.
SHALL WE REST A LITTLE?
YOU MUST BE TIRED.

Chapter 8: The Bloodstained Gates

This story is fiction. It has no connection to real people, groups or events.


RIGHT ABOUT NOW, QUEEN TAHAMENAY IS WARM AND COMFORTABLE AT THE PLACE SHE RAN OFF TO...
ONLY THE KING AND HIS FAMILY ARE ABLE TO FLEE TO A SAFE PLACE.
NO MATTER WHAT HER LADY THE QUEEN AND THE LORD PRIME MINISTER ARE THINKING, I ONLY NEED TO LOYALLY PLAY MY PART IN FOLLOWING THEIR ORDERS!
I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO SLANDER HER LADY THE QUEEN.
THAT'S ALWAYS HOW IT IS, EVERY-WHERE.
THEY'VE PREPARED AN ESCAPE ROUTE JUST FOR IMPORTANT PEOPLE.
THE MASSES DON'T KNOW OF IT'S EXISTENCE.
THEY AREN'T GIVEN USE OF IT, EITHER.
EVEN IF OTHER'S ARE SACRIFICED FOR THEM, THEY AREN'T THANKFUL.
THEY'RE SELFISH.

THE EXISTENCE OF DEVOTED PEOPLE LIKE YOU CAUSES THOSE OF HIGH RANK THROW THEIR WEIGHT ABOUT EVEN MORE.
YOU PLEASE THEM, BUT IN THE END YOU ARE CAUSING MORE PAIN TO OTHER'S LIKE YOURSELF.
THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL A "SERVILE DISPOSITION".

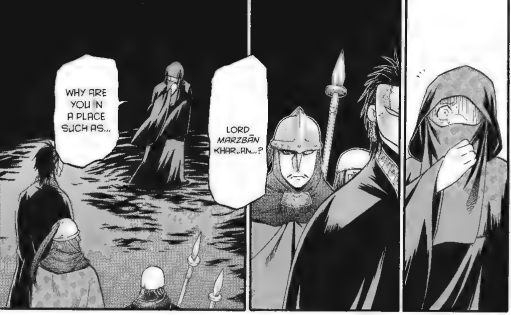
I UNDERTOOK THE JOB OF ESCORTING THE QUEEN, NOT ESCORTING A COURT LADY DISGUISED AS THE QUEEN.
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO COMPLAIN TO ME FOR STEPPING DOWN...
SO THEN, ARE YOU SAYING YOU WON'T TAKE ME ALONG ANY FURTHER?
I'VE NO INTENTION OF PLAYING A PART LIKE THAT.
WHOOPS!
WHOOSH
WELL NOW, JUST WAIT.
YOU'RE A DECENTLY BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, SO IT DOESN'T MEAN I WON'T SEE YOU ALL THE WAY THERE...
SHK-
THUMP
WHISH
SHISH
...!!

HEY, HEY... IF YOU'RE HEADING BACK TO THE PALACE, IT'S NOT THAT WAY...
SPLOSH
SPLOSH
SPLOSH
SPLOSH
WELL, LOOK WHAT WE HAVE HERE...
IS THE HOMECOMING LADY QUEEN OF PIGS RETURNING TO SHAME HER ONCE AND FUTURE HUSBAND IN HER OWN LAND?

...WHO ARE YOU?!
SPLOSH
SPLOSH
WHERE HAS THE DIGNITY OF THOSE SEATED ON THE THRONE GONE?

I SHOULD SAY, YOU MAKE A SUITABLE COUPLE WITH THAT DAMNED ANDRAGO-RAS.
ONE ABANDONED HIS SOLDIERS AND FLED THE BATTLEFIELD, AND THE OTHER ABANDONED THE CAPITAL AND HER PEOPLE TO GO UNDER-GROUND...

SOMEONE WHO INTENDS TO LAY DOWN TRUE JUSTICE WITHIN PARS.


WHY ARE YOU IN A PLACE SUCH AS...
LORD MARZBÁN KHARLAN...?

"LORD"... KHARLAN, SHE SAYS?

EEK!
WHOOSH
THIS BITCH! SHE ISN'T THE QUEEN, IS SHE!!

I HAVE NO NEED FOR USELESS PEOPLE...!!
GRAB!!
HUH?
CURSE YOURSELF FOR SERVING THE WRONG MASTER.
...
WOMAN!!
CREE
CREE
CREE

SHH
SPLOO
CRACKK
WAIT!
THUMP
THUMP
SPLOSH
SPLOSH
WE'RE GOING

HOW COULD YOU KILL A BEAUTY, EVEN IF SHE'S WASN'T A FLAWLESS ONE?!
IF SHE WAS ALIVE SHE MIGHT HAVE REPENTED AND REPAID ME FOR THIS.
GIVE ME A BREAK...
CHOKING A HELPLESS WOMAN TO DEATH...
...AND ON TOP OF THAT, STEPPING OVER HER...
FLAP
IS THAT "TRUE JUSTICE" YOU SPOKE SOMETHING YOU NEED TO STEP OVER THE DIGNITY OF OTHERS TO REACH?
HOW ABOUT YOU SHOW ME YOUR FACE...
...YOU LADY-KILLER.

FWOOM
...INSTEAD OF BLOOD?!
OR IS THAT YOUR REAL FACE, BECAUSE YOU HAVE MERCURY FLOWING IN YOU...
CRASHH
SHHH

IT'S HOT!
WOOSH!

...CRUSH THIS NAGGING LITTLE MOSQUITO, YOU LOT.
YES, SIR!
I'M GOING AFTER THE REAL QUEEN.
ARE YOU UNHARMED?
OOPS...
HOW HEARTLESS OF YOU...
...SILVER MASK

WHEW
THUNKK
SHOOSH
SHLK
!!

I'LL START WITH JUST ONE!
NGUH.
THUDD
ん
GRIP
TAP
YOU BAS-TARD...

WHOOSH
WHISH
THWACK
OH!
GH.
DUCK
WHISH
GHRH
?!
SPLIO
SLASH
CR-
CRINGG
POINT
I'VE GOT HIM CORNERED!!
CRING
CLANG
CRINNGG

A
STAB
THUD
TH-THUMP
SPLASH
ぽちゃん
PLUCK

SPLOSH
SPLOSH
WELL THEN, WHAT TO DO?
IT SEEMS THIS SECRET PATHWAY HAS BEEN DISCOVERED BY THE ENEMY...
SHOULD I GO SAVE THE LYING LADY QUEEN?
OR SHOULD I TAKE THE MONEY I RECEIVED FROM THIS JOB AND SAY FAREWELL...?
...
OKAY! LET'S GET CAUGHT UP IN ALL THIS CONFUSION AND TAKE A PORTION OF THE RICHES!
SPLOSH
SPLOSH
AND WHILE I'M AT IT, IF THERE ARE ANY BEAUTIFUL WOMEN THERE, I'LL TAKE ONE OF THEM TOO!
LET'S GO WITH THAT.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
HALT
HALT

BE GRATEFUL AS I'LL MAKE GOOD USE OF THIS.
THESE THINGS ARE USELESS TO THE DEAD.
CLINGLE
お!Roo
お!
お!ooAA
お!
お!
ARRRRRRR
LORD SAM!! CAN'T WE INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SOLDIERS HERE AS WELL?!
YES, SIR!
WAHAHAHA!
THE EAST GATE IS UNDER MANNED.
SEND 10 ONGERS & KING FROM THE NORTH GATE.

NO MATTER HOW MANY OF THESE BASTARDS WE SHOOT DOWN, THEIR ASSAULT DOESN'T STOP!

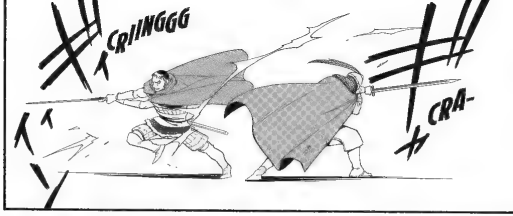
DOOOM
?!
TONIGHT'S ATTACK IS THE STRONGEST WE'VE SEEN UP TO THIS POINT...!

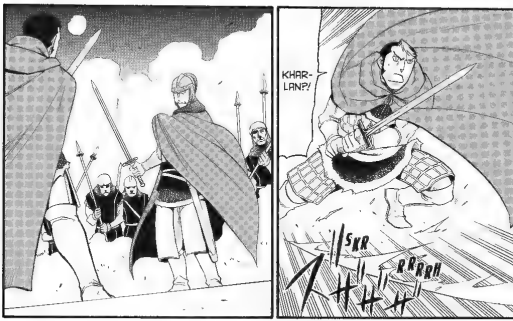
FIRE FROM THE ROYAL PALACE!!

IMPOSSIBLE
I'M ENTRUSTING THIS AREA TO YOU
YES, SIR!
RRRR
RRR
AA
OA
ROO
WHERE ARE THEY COMING FROM...?!

ROUT THEM!!
THE BLESSINGS OF OUR GOD, YALDA-BROTH!!
EVERY-THING IN THE PARSIAN PALACE BELONGS TO US!!
TH-TH-THUMPP
TH-TH-THUMPP
THUDD
TH-TH-THUMPP

THUNK
KA-
WHAM
YOU INSOLENT BAS-TARDS!!
MAKE WAY!!
?!


CRIINGGG
CRA-


KHAR-
LANP/
SKR
RRRH

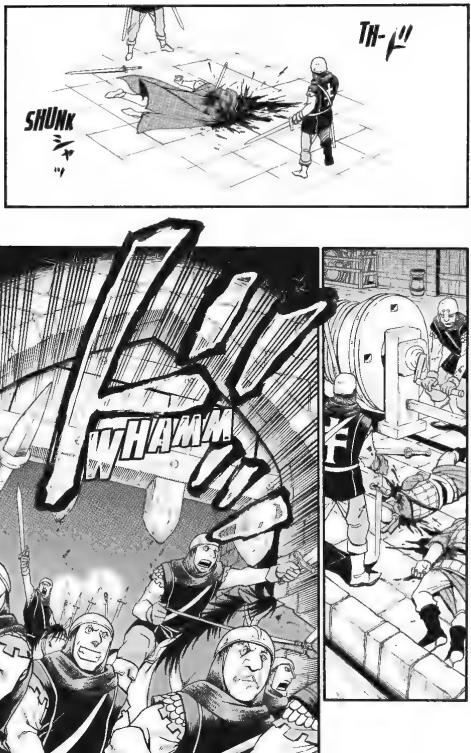
SO THE STORIES THAT YOU BETRAYED US WERE TRUE...

CR-CRINGG
KHARLAN!!
YOU SOLD OUT YOUR KING-DOM?!
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CL-CLANGG
I HAD MY REA-SONS!!
CLANG
CL-CRN
CLANG
YOU WOULD NOT UNDER-STAND!!
CLA
CLA
OH, OF COURSE I WOULDN'T !!
HOW COULD I UNDER-STAND?!
CLA
CRACK
CLA
CL-CRING

SLIDE
TCH
...
I'LL GUARANTEE YOUR LIFE AND RANK IF YOU CONVERT TO THE TEACHINGS OF YALDABROTH.
SURRENDER, SIR.
CR...
...HOW RIDICULOUS!!
FOR A DOG TO GO ON AND ON ABOUT THE RANKINGS OF MEN...
GRINNGG

POINT
THUMP
HUH?
WAIT!!
SĀ...

THUDD
... ARE YOU ...?
WHO ...
THUD
TH-


TH-F
SHUNK
シャ
WHAMM

THE GATE HAS FALLEN!/
LORD MARZBAN GARSHASPH/
KEEP THEM AT BAY!!
DON'T RETREAT!!
THUD
THUD
UNNHH...

WHORH...
STABB
THUD
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
SPLOSH
OH...

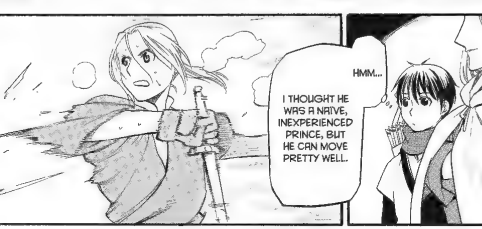
RAAAA
SK-
THUD

The fall of Ecbatana!!
Can Arslan save his kingdom and his people?!

Manga
HIROMU ARAKAWA
(Published by Kobunsha Kappa Novels)

Original Script
YOSHIKI TANAKA

IT'S ELAN.
I'VE JUST RE-TURNED.
CRIINGG



IT SEEMS THAT OLD VAHRIZ TRAINED HIM.
...ALTHOUGH, WASN'T HE BEING TRAINED AGAINST HIS WILL?
UP UNTIL BEFORE THE BATTLE AT ATRO-PATENE, HE WAS.

This story is fiction. It has no connection to real people, groups or events.

THUNK
BWAHH
"PLEASE TRAIN ME," HE SAID.
THIS MORNING HE CAME TO DARYUN ON HIS OWN AND BEGGED HIM TO HELP.
...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO REST A BIT?
HUFF
HUFF
JUST A LITTLE MORE, PLEASE.

IF YOU KEEP AT IT TOO LONG, YOU WON'T HAVE THE PHYSICAL ENERGY LEFT TO MAKE OUR ESCAPE.
LET'S LEAVE IT AT THAT, ARSLAN, YOUR HIGHNESS.
IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR US TO DISCUSS GOING DOWN THE MOUNTAIN.

THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN

Chapter 9: A Wild Party of Bloodshed

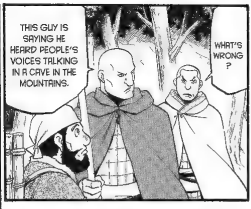
Manga
HIROMU ARAKAWA

Original Script
YOSHIKI TANAKA

(Published by Kobunsha Kappa Novels)

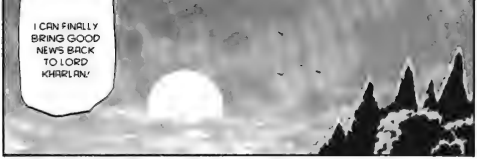
IS THAT TRUE?!
YES.
I'M SURE THAT I HEARD THEM.

WHEN I LISTENED CLOSELY, THEY WERE SAYING SOMETHING LIKE, "ON THE EVENING OF THE FOURTEENTH, WE'LL WORK WITH OUR FRIEND'S OUTSIDE THE MOUNTAIN TO BREAK OUT"...
IT SEEMED AS THOUGH THEY HAD ATTACHED A LETTER TO A PIGEON'S LEG, AND LET IT FLY OFF.
!


THIS GUY IS SAYING HE HEARD PEOPLE'S VOICES TALKING IN A CAVE IN THE MOUNTAINS.
WHAT'S WRONG?

ARE YOU A WOOD-CUTTER FROM AROUND HERE?
YES.
I HEARD VOICES COMING FROM A CAVE THAT SHOULD HAVE NO SIGN OF LIFE, SO I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE SOMETHING...

SO THEY'VE FINALLY MADE A MOVE/
OUR PATIENT WAITING FOR THEM HAS PAID OFF/
NARSUS, HIS PAGE...
...DARYUN AND ARSLAN/
HOW MANY WERE THERE?
THE VOICES WERE... THOSE OF FOUR MEN.
OH?
THANK YOU KINDLY FOR THIS/
OKAY, GOOD, GOOD// GOOD OF YOU TO TELL US//
HERE'S OUR THANKS/ TAKE IT/
ON THE NIGHT OF THE FOURTEENTH, WE'LL ENGAGE THEM WITH OUR ENTIRE FORCE/
WE'RE UP AGAINST DARYUN AND NARSUS.
OKAY.
REST UP PROPERLY TONIGHT, IN PREPARATION FOR THAT DAY/
THE NIGHT OF THE FOURTEENTH, HM...?


I CAN FINALLY BRING GOOD NEWS BACK TO LORD KHARLAN!

THAT BASTARD NARSUS, PUTTING US THROUGH ALL THIS TROUBLE!
IT'LL FINALLY BE SETTLED TOMORROW!

"HE'S REQUESTED REINFORCEMENTS IN PREPARATION FOR TOMORROW NIGHT."
DON'T WORRY.
WONDER ABOUT THAT.
PERHAPS HE'S THAT PERSON BEING HAS THE POWER TO TEN THOUSAND WARRIORS.

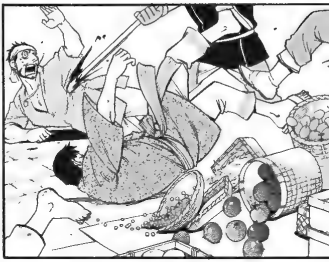
I WANT TO FINISH THIS UP QUICKLY, GO BACK TO THE CASTLE AND DO A LOT OF...

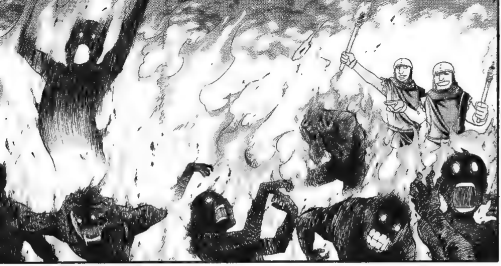
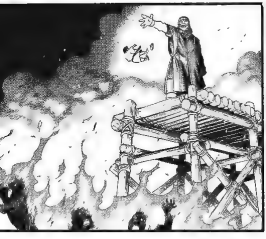
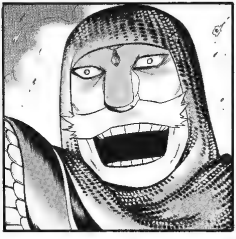
FWOOSH

?!
GA-CLANG
NEEEIGHHH
WHAT IS THIS ...?
WHOAH ?!
PUSH
TH-THUMP
WHA...P. WASN'T NARSUS THIS SUP-POSED TO HAPPEN TOMOR-ROW?!
SK-KR
HEY, SORRY, SORRY.

I'VE BEEN SHUT UP IN THE MOUNTAINS, SO I COULDN'T GET A LOOK AT A CALENDAR.
I GOT THE DATE WRONG.
YOU BAS-TARD ...
AHH ?!
FAREWELL, THEN!
OH... PERHAPS THAT WOODCUT-TER...
...WAS WORKING FOR NAR-SUS FROM THE BEGIN-NING...
NA... NA...

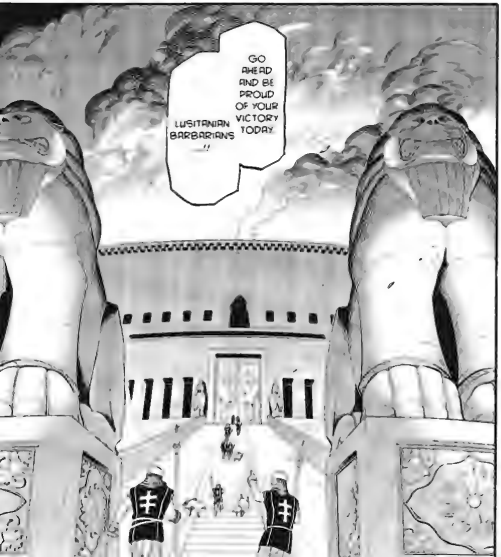
NARS-
UUUUUU-
SSSSSS
!!
I WONDER IF MY FATHER MADE IT BACK TO THE ROYAL CAPITAL ECBATANA SAFELY...
THE SOLDIERS ...
THE PEOPLE ...
OH EC-BATANA ...
DON'T FALL TO THE ENEMY JUST YET...



OUR GOD YALDABAOTH HAS BLESSED OUR LUSITANIA WITH VICTORY!!
PILLAGE !!
KILL!!
DO AS YOU PLEASE!!
IT IS ALL AS GOD WILLS!!
RRRR
RRRR
ROAAAA
あああ
あああ

KEEP DANC-ING...
DANCE
THAT'S GOOD
WELL-FED SWINE DANCE LIKE GOOD PUPPETS, DON'T THEY?
YES.
EVERYTHING WENT DONE ACCORDING TO PLAN.

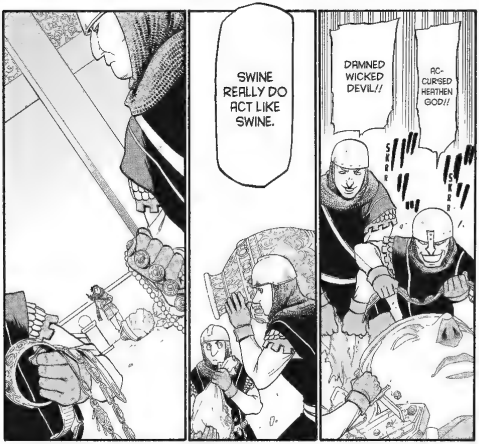

LUSITANIAN BARBARIANS
GO AHEAD AND BE PROUD OF YOUR VICTORY TODAY.

CRE
ぎ
CRE
ぎ
CRE
ぎっ

CRUSHHH
CRACK

THOK
WE'LL CRUSH IT UNDER THE NAME OF OUR GOD, YALDABAOTH !!
IDOL WORSHIP, HOW SHAME-FUL!!

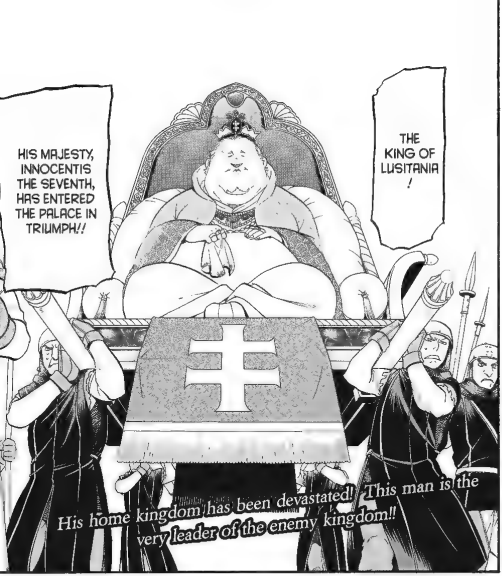
AAARRR
あぁ
AAAAA
あぁ
あぁ
あぁ
AAARRR
あぁ


SWINE REALLY DO ACT LIKE SWINE.
DAMNED WICKED DEVIL!!
ACCURSED HEATHEN GOD!!
SLEER
SLEER

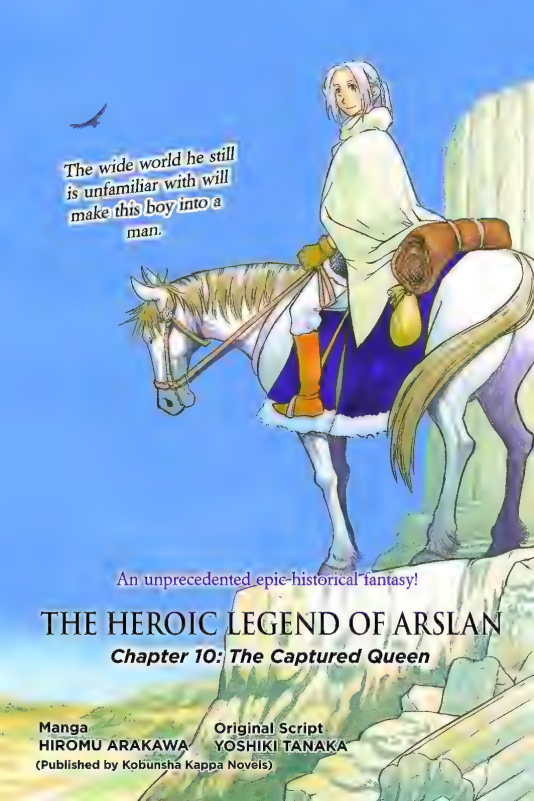
NOW, WATCH ME TAKE YOUR REVENGE.
OHH, BEAUTIFUL GODDESS OF FORTUNE, ASHI...
WHAT A HEART-RENDING STATE THEY'VE LEFT YOU IN...
おう!!
YESSIR!!
WHO IS THIS GUY?
HEY, GET RID OF HIM.
GA-KIN
BUSHU
BUSHU
BUSHU

C... CAPTA-AAINNN!!
WHOOPS. DON'T MAKE ANY UN-NECESSARY MOVES.
THIS GUY'S HERD WILL GO FLYING.
YOU BUNCH... NO, YOU SWINE.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND HUMAN WORDS?
IF SO, THEN GATHER THAT LOOT TOGETHER AND HAND IT OVER TO ME.
SEARCH FOR THE QUEEN!!
TAKE THE QUEEN PRISONER!!

NGAAAHH
HEY, YOU BASTARD! WHERE'S TAHAMENAY?!
AAAAA
WAH HA HA HA
WA HA HA HA
MHHHNNP
AGHA GHA KHAAA
AGHA AGAGAHH
WAHH... YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR!
STABB
NGHA
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.
WHAT IS IT?
HURRY!
CLEAN ASIDE THE DEAD BODIES ON THE PATH!


HIS MAJESTY, INNOCENTIS THE SEVENTH, HAS ENTERED THE PALACE IN TRIUMPH!!
THE KING OF LUSITANIA!
His home kingdom has been devastated! This man is the very leader of the enemy kingdom!!

IT SMELLS.



An unprecedented epic-historical fantasy!

THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN

Chapter 10: The Captured Queen

Manga
HIROMU ARAKAWA

Original Script
YOSHIKI TANAKA

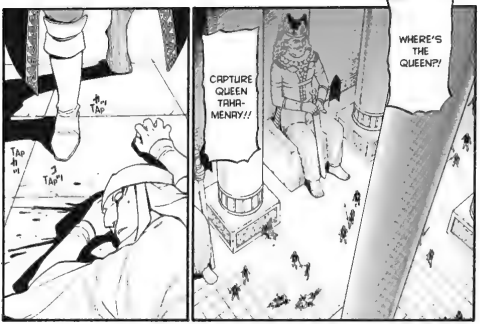
(Published by Kodansha Kappa Novels)

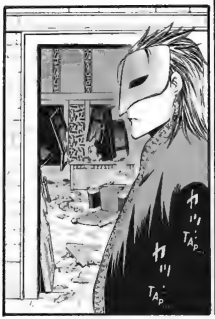
EL CLANG
QUITE A MISERABLE END FOR THE MIGHTY PARS.

"...THUS WHEN THE HERO KING KAYKHU'S-RAW ...
... ARRIVED ON HIS GOLDEN THRONE...
...THE OTHER KINGS KNELT ON THE EARTH TO PLEDGE THEIR OBEDIENCE ...
IN THE END, THE RISE AND FALL OF A KINGDOM IS LIKE THAT TOO.
WE'RE BORN FROM ASHES, AND WE RETURN TO ASHES...

This story is fiction. It has no connection to real people, groups or events

I ACCIDENTALLY LEFT MY OUD BEHIND ...
SHAWN


TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
CAPTURE QUEEN TAHR-MENRY!!!
WHERE'S THE QUEEN?!

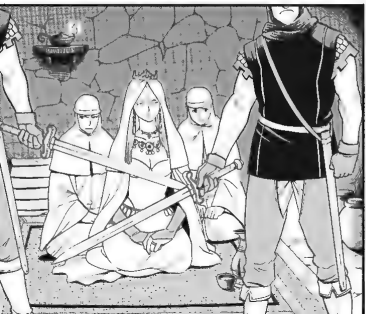


RRRR

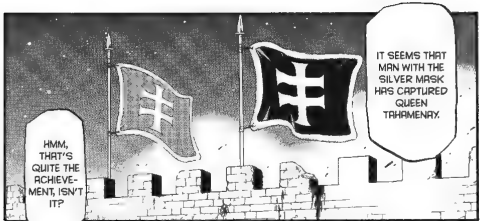
AIIGHH
WAAA

WHISH
OH ...
PLEASE, SAVE ME ...
I'LL EVEN DONATE ALL MY WEALTH TO THE GOD, YALDA-BAOTH!/
I'LL CONVERT !/ I SHALL CONVERT !/
...!/
CON ...
I BEG YOUR FORGIVE-NESS!/ I'LL CONVERT !/
KYAAA

...PLEASE DO AS YOU FEEL IS APPROPRIATE IN REGARDS TO MY CONVERSION AND HAVING MERCY ON MY LIFE...
...BUT BECAUSE I'M TELLING YOU...



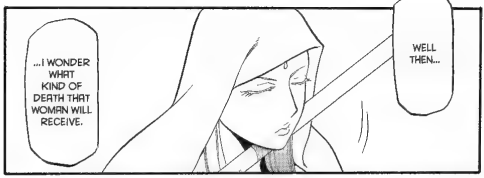
YOU CAN STAY THIS BEAUTIFUL WHEN YOU FEED ON THE LIVES AND DESTINIES OF SO MANY MEN...
...YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED ONE BIT SINCE THAT TIME...
YOU DAMNED MONSTER!

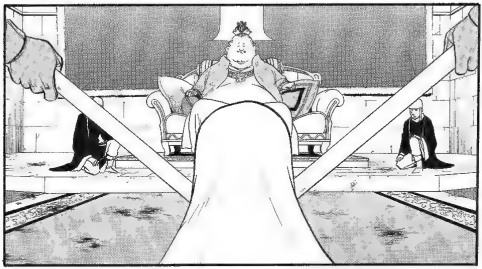

IT SEEMS THAT MAN WITH THE SILVER MASK HAS CAPTURED QUEEN TAHMENAY.
HMM, THAT'S QUITE THE ACHIEVEMENT, ISN'T IT?

CREEEEE
I WONDER IF THAT MAN COULD BE GIVING HIS ALL FOR OUR LUSITANIA, AFTER ALL.
I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT.
ANYWAY, THOSE EYES UNDER THE MASK ARE UNNERVING...
I FEEL LIKE HE IS PLOTTING SOMETHING. I DON'T LIKE IT.
AH! THEY'VE ARRIVED!
IS THAT TAHA-MENAY ...?
IT SEEMS THAT AT FIRST SHE WAS BETROTHED TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE "PRINCIPALITY OF BADRAKSHAN."
AND HIS MASTER, PRINCE KEYLIMARS, STOLE HER AWAY.
A LORD STOLE THE FIANCEE OF HIS VASSAL... HM?
NO WONDER THE COUNTRY WAS IN CHAOS.
WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT POOR PRIME MINISTER?

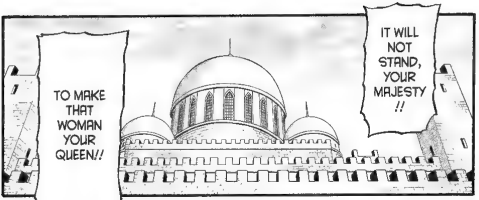
WHY?
AFTER ALL, THEY SAY THAT KEYUMARS, WHO STOLE HER AWAY, ALSO KILLED HIMSELF.
UGH/ POOR GUY...
HE KILLED HIMSELF, THEY SAY.
THE STORY GOES THAT OSROES DIED OF DISEASE, BUT IT SEEMS THAT ANDRAGORAS ASSASSINATED HIM AND TOOK BOTH THE THRONE AND TAHAMENAY.
AFTER THAT, OSROES AND HIS YOUNGER BROTHER, ANDRAGORAS FOUGHT OVER THAT WOMAN AND HAD A FALLING OUT...
DURING THE REIGN OF THE PREVIOUS KING OF PARS, OSROES, A WAR BROKE OUT BETWEEN BADAKHSHAN AND PARS.
OSROES' SON, WHO WAS HEIR TO THE THRONE, WAS KILLED TOO, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
IT'S SAID THAT WHEN THEY WERE INVADED AND REALIZED THEY COULDN'T WIN, KEYUMARS THREW HIMSELF FROM THE TOWER OF THE CASTLE.
CHICANERY, HM...?
THAT'S CREEPY...
SO SHE'S A WOMAN WHO BRINGS MISFORTUNE TO EVERY SINGLE MAN INVOLVED WITH HER...

THAT UNEARTHLY POWER WON'T WORK BEFORE HIS MAJESTY INNOCENTIS, THE KING OF LUSITANIA.
BUT THAT MONSTER'S LIFE ONLY EXTENDS UNTIL TODAY!
WE'VE BURNED A MILLION BOOKS ON FOREIGN CULTURE AND MAGIC AND ATHEISM!
PHEWW
AT ANY RATE, INCLUDING THE BABIES, WE'VE KILLED THREE MILLION HERETICS UP TO THIS POINT!
I SAW THAT HAPPEN!
HEY, CUT IT OUT!
THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SKIPPED CHURCH TO MEET IN SECRET HAVE BEEN IMPALED ON RED-HOT METAL SPIKES...
THE TONGUES OF SCHOLARS CHANTING "THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS GOD," HAVE BEEN TORN OUT!

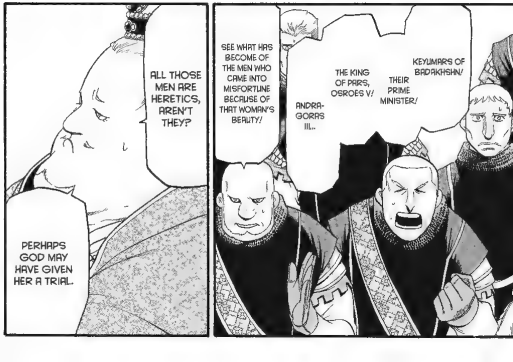

WELL THEN...
...I WONDER WHAT KIND OF DEATH THAT WOMAN WILL RECEIVE.

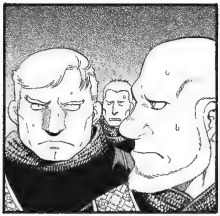


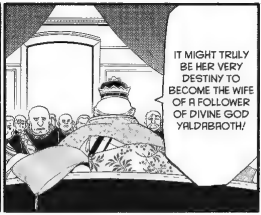
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
?


TO MAKE THAT WOMAN YOUR QUEEN!!
IT WILL NOT STAND, YOUR MAJESTY !!

WHY NOT?
I'M STILL SINGLE AND DON'T HAVE A QUEEN.
TAHAMENRY, THE QUEEN OF PARS, IS AN UNLUCKY WOMAN//
EACH AND EVERY MAN WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH HER HAS FALLEN INTO UNFORTUNATE CIRCUMSTANCES//


ALL THOSE MEN ARE HERETICS, AREN'T THEY?
PERHAPS GOD MAY HAVE GIVEN HER A TRIAL.
SEE WHAT HAS BECOME OF THE MEN WHO CAME INTO MISFORTUNE BECAUSE OF THAT WOMAN'S BEAUTY!
ANDRA-GORRS III...
THE KING OF PARS, OSROES V/
THEIR PRIME MINISTER/
KEYUMARS OF BADAKHSHAN/




IT MIGHT TRULY BE HER VERY DESTINY TO BECOME THE WIFE OF A FOLLOWER OF DIVINE GOD YALDABAOTH!

WHERE IS LORD GUISCARD?!
LORD GUIS-CARD!!

CAN'T WE PLEASE HAVE YOU PERSUADE HIM OTHERWISE, LORD GUISCARD?
ELDER BROTHER IS? AGAIN...?
IN ANY CASE, IT'S JUST SOMETHING RIDICULOUS AGAIN, ISN'T IT?

HOW NOISY.
WHAT IS IT?
HIS MAJESTY IS MAKING AN IMPOSSIBLE DEMAND! EVERYONE IS PER-PLEXED BY IT.

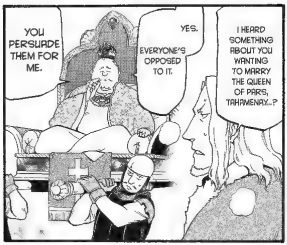
I'M BUSY. THERE'S A PILE OF THINGS I MUST DO.
CHECK EACH SQUADRON'S WEAPONRY AND EQUIPMENT!
WE DON'T KNOW WHEN THE PARSIAN SURVIVORS WILL ARRIVE!

HNNH?
SHAPP

HIS MAJESTY IS SAYING HE'LL MAKE TAHAMENAY INTO HIS QUEEN, AND WON'T LISTEN TO US!

AHH! THE WEALTH OF PARIS SURPASSES WHAT I'VE HEARD...

YES, SIR!
YOU ABSOLUTELY MUSTN'T TAKE IT.
ALL BELONGS TO OUR GOD YALDABAOTH.

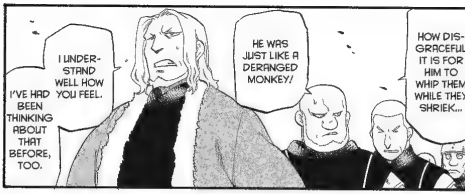

YOU PERSUADE THEM FOR ME.
YES. EVERYONE'S OPPOSED TO IT.
I HEARD SOMETHING ABOUT YOU WANTING TO MARRY THE QUEEN OF PARS, TAHMENAY...?

ELDER BROTHER!
WHAT IS IT, GUISCARD?

I'M LEAVING YOU TO MANAGE THE VAULT, AS WE SHALL OFFER IT ALL TO GOD.
THIS TIME, OUR VICTORY IS DUE TO THE POWER OF GOD.
YOU CALLED FOR ME, SIR?

I'M LEAVING IT TO YOU, MY BELOVED YOUNGER BROTHER.
ARCH-BISHOP!
IS ARCH-BISHOP BODIN HERE?

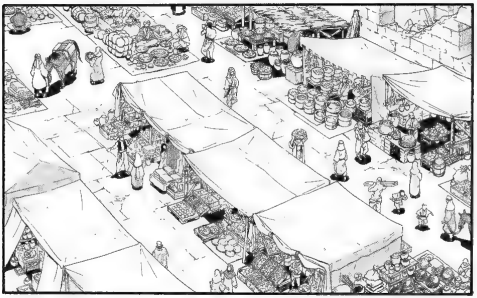
GRRHHH...
YES, SIR!
WHY CAN SOMEONE LIKE HIM TAKE ALL THE WEALTH AND POWER HE WANTS, WHILE WE'RE THE ONES FIGHTING AND RISKING OUR LIVES?
ALL HE EVER DOES IS TORTURE THOSE WHO CAN'T FIGHT BACK TO DEATH, EVEN THOUGH HE'S NEVER STOOD AND FOUGHT ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE...
THAT DAMNED BODIN ...
YES SIR, RIGHT AWAY!
I WANT TO DRINK SOME SUGAR WATER.
IF THAT GUY HAD HAD BOTH HANDS FREE, HE WOULD HAVE DEFINITELY SMASHED SOMEONE LIKE BODIN JUST LIKE A BABY CHICK.
YEAH.
THAT PERSON NAMED SARPUR WAS TRULY AN ADMIRABLE HERO, EVEN FOR A HERETIC.
THAT SITUATION BEFORE, TOO.


I UNDERSTAND WELL HOW YOU FEEL. I'VE HAD BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT BEFORE, TOO.
HE WAS JUST LIKE A DERANGED MONKEY!
HOW DISGRACEFUL IT IS FOR HIM TO WHIP THEM WHILE THEY SHRIEK...

WE NEED HIM TO KEEP HIS BELIEFS WITHIN A REASONABLE LEVEL, TOO!
THAT... ELDER BROTHER IS FAR TOO KIND TO THOSE INSINCERE CLERGYMEN AND NEGLECTS DISTINGUISHED MILITARY LIKE TOO MUCH...!

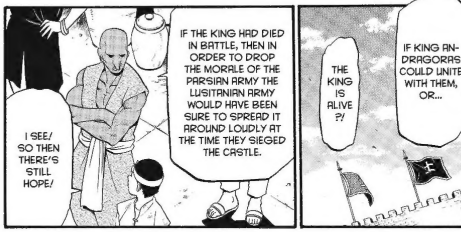
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME!!
PLEASE, DO SOMETHING TO STOP THIS MARRIAGE!!
LORD GUISCARD!
NOT TO MENTION THE SUSPICIOUS QUEEN OF OUR ENEMY KINGDOM!
FOR HIS MAJESTY, WHO IS SO PIOUS, TO BE WILED BY A WOMAN...

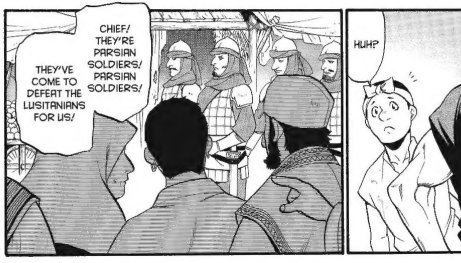
...I FEEL ANGRY ENOUGH TO DIE!!
JUST BY THINKING ABOUT IF ELDER BROTHER SHOULD ACCIDENTALLY HAVE A CHILD OR SOMETHING...



THUNK
I'M TAKING THIS!
Y... YES SIR!
TAKE AS MUCH AS YOU'D LIKE!
BWA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
THOSE DAMNED LUSITANIAN SOLDIERS, GETTING CARRIED AWAY...
IF YOU EVEN SO MUCH AS GET ON THEIR BAD SIDE YOU GET KILLED.
IT'S BAD FOR BUSINESS.

...PERHAPS. MOST OF THE SQUADRONS WERE WIPED OUT IN THIS BATTLE...ONLY KISHWARD'S SQUAD AND BAHMAN'S SQUAD MUST STILL BE IN THE EAST.
HEY, CHIEF. WILL PARS JUST FALL INTO RUIN LIKE THIS?


I SEE/ SO THEN THERE'S STILL HOPE/
IF THE KING HAD DIED IN BATTLE, THEN IN ORDER TO DROP THE MORALE OF THE PARSIAN ARMY THE LUSITANIAN ARMY WOULD HAVE BEEN SURE TO SPREAD IT AROUND LOUDLY AT THE TIME THEY SIEGED THE CASTLE.
THE KING IS ALIVE ?/
IF KING ANDRAGORAS COULD UNITE WITH THEM, OR...


THEY'VE COME TO DEFEAT THE LUSITANIANS FOR US/
CHIEF/ THEY'RE PARSIAN SOLDIERS/ PARSIAN SOLDIERS/
HUH?

HEY!
YES?!
THAT'S KARLAN'S SQUAD, ISN'T IT?
COULD IT BE KISH-WARD'S SQUAD?!
OH, WHAT..? THEY'RE FRIENDS WITH THE LUSITR-NIANS, THEN...
THE COWARDS WHO BETRAYED US TO THE ENEMY AT ATROPATENE.
THEY'RE TRAITORS
THAT'S
WH... WHAT COULD IT BE?
WE'RE JUST A SIDESHOW, SO THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN GIVE YOU...
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
YOU'VE BEEN HERE FOR A LONG TIME, HAVEN'T YOU?

DO YOU KNOW ANY LUSITANIAN SLAVES?
...HUH?
I'M LOOKING FOR LUSITANIAN SOLDIERS...
...WHO WERE BROUGHT HERE TO ECBATANA AND MADE INTO SLAVES THREE YEARS AGO.
The boy soldier who once kidnapped Arslan appears again! The reunion of the two, who have found their fortunes reversed, will sway the progress of the war!